

**The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Regular Meeting of Council
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.
ELECTRONIC MEETING**

Public Notice is hereby given that Council will be meeting Electronically as permitted by Bill 187, Municipal Emergency Act, 1818. Citizens are encouraged to attend the virtual meeting via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82995918314?pwd=Y1dZWtJnUkRjOWFZVW5ZcC8xUEJWZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 9591 8314

Passcode: 273124

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands

1. Call to Order: Chaired by Mayor Penny Lucas

Mayor Lucas called the Regular Meeting of Council to order this 22nd day of February 2022, at ____ p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda Page 1-5

Motion: #2022.02.22.020

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace does hereby approve the Agenda for the Regular meeting of Council this 22nd day of February, 2022, as _____.

Carried

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

The Chair calls for any declaration of pecuniary interest, and the general nature thereof under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to the agenda for this meeting.

4. Delegations/Deputations/Presentation

KDSB Presentation - Henry Wall & Barry Baltessen

NWMO/Township - Year 1 (Complete) & Year 2 (Proposed) Presentation - Jeff Lederer

5. Consent Agenda

Motion: # 2022.02.22.021

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace does hereby approve the Consent Agenda for the Regular meeting of Council this 22nd day of February 2022, as _____

AND, all directions and/or any recommendations or motions included therein.

1. Previous Minutes

- 1.1 Regular Meeting of Council dated January 17, 2022 **Page 6-14**
- 1.2 Special Meeting of Council dated January 10, 2022 **Page 15-17**
- 1.3 Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) Minutes **Page 18-26**

2. Monthly Reports

- 2.1 Mayor's **Page 27**
- 2.2 Finance Department **Page 28-29**
- 2.3 Planning, Development & Engagement Services Department/Recreational Dept **Page 30-34**
- 2.4 Administration/Corporate Services Department **Page 35-36**
- 2.5 Public Works Department **Page 37**
- 2.6 Fire Chief **Page 38**
- 2.7 By-Law Officer **Page 39-40**

3. Correspondence

- 3.1 Economic Development Advisory Committee Chair Report & Minutes **Page 41-55**
- 3.2 Municipal Modernization Program 3 Implementation Phase - Jeff Lederer Report **Page 56-59**
- 3.3 NOHFC Funding Application - Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail **Page 60-61**
- 3.4 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference - Mayor Penny Lucas **Page 62-124**
- 3.5 KDMA Conference - Mayor Penny Lucas **Page 125-139**
- 3.6 Northern CAO/Clerks Forum 2022 **Page 140**
- 3.7 Good Roads 2022 Conference **Page 141-145**
- 3.8 PDS Citywide User Group 2022 **Page 146-147**
- 3.9 CNA 2022 Conference **Page 148-157**
- 3.10 AMO - Municipal Energy Symposium Registration **Page 158-159**
- 3.11 What we Heard: Modernizing Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste management and Decommissioning **Page 160-202**
- 3.12 Northern Waterworks Operations Reports - December 2021 **Page 203-217**
- 3.13 Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Aggregate Resources Act **Page 218**
- 3.14 Town of Bracebridge - Support for MPSSAS **Page 219**
- 3.15 Township of Perth South - "Catch and Release" Justice **Page 220-224**
- 3.16 Township of South Glengarry Resolutions **Page 225-227**

Carried

6. Consideration of Consent Items Requiring Discussion

7. Questions from the Public

8. By-Laws

- 8.1 By-Law #05.2022 - To Amend By-Law 64.2020 Page 228
- 8.2 By-Law #06.2022 - To Amend By-Law 105.2021 Page 229
- 8.3 By-Law #07.2022 - To Adopt a Policy & Set out Procedures for Cheque Signing Page 230-232
- 8.4 By-Law #08.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Regarding Children in the Workplace Page 233-236
- 8.5 By-Law #09.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Pertaining to the Use of Corporate Credit Cards Page 237-242
- 8.6 By-Law #10.2022 - To Adopt a Policy for the Application of Customer Credit for Individuals, Businesses and any other Group Wanting to be Invoiced Page 243-247
- 8.7 By-Law #11.2022 - To Delegate Authority Regarding Certain Matters to Staff Page 248-256
- 8.8 By-Law #12.2022 - To Govern the Employment of Relatives of Councillors along with Current and Future Employees, Volunteers and Committee Members Paid or Unpaid Page 257-260
- 8.9 By-Law #13.2022 - To Regulate & Control Ice & Snow Removal within the Township of Ignace Page 261-265
- 8.10 By-Law #14.2022 - To Delegate Authority to the Clerk for Certain Acts During a "Lame Duck" Period Page 266-267
- 8.11 By-Law #15.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Pertaining to Memberships and Subscriptions Page 268-272
- 8.12 By-Law #16.2022 - To Control and Regulate the Obstruction of a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer or any Other Officer within the Township Page 273-275
- 8.13 By-Law #17.2022 - To Provide Policy for the Procurement of Goods & Services Page 276-296
- 8.14 By-Law #18.2022 - To Adopt a Social Media Use Policy for Employees, Council, Volunteers and Committee Members of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace Page 297-302
- 8.15 By-Law #19.2022 - To Adopt a Comprehensive and Procedures Manual in Accordance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act, R.S.O., 1990 c.01 as Amended Page 303-324
- 8.16 By-Law #20.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Regarding the Security of Buildings & Key Fob Entry Page 325-327
- 8.17 By-Law #21.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Bullying and Harassment in the Workshop Page 328-338
- 8.18 By-Law #22.2022 - To Adopt a Policy Regarding Workplace Violence Page 339-349
- 8.19 By-Law #23.2022 - Enter into an Agreement with Neuvote Systems for Internet Voting Services for the 2022 Municipal Election Page 350
- 8.20 By-Law #24.2022 - Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as Represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Page 351

9. Notice of Motions

9.1 Presented by Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Motion: #2022.02.22. _____

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Seconded by: _____

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace this 22nd day of February 2022 directs Administration to ensure:

1. That the Treasurer be requested to provide a report to Council setting out applicable policies relating to payments or compensation to be made to management staff on account of overtime hours worked;
2. That the report indicate any variations from the policy which have occurred in the last 18 months;
3. That the Clerk be requested to provide a report to Council outlining the approval process and corresponding policies and procedures relating to any entitlement to RDO's (Regular Days Off) on alternate Fridays for non-unionized and management staff;
4. That the Clerk be requested to review the employee code of conduct to ensure that it appropriately guides against conduct and behaviours that are to be avoided on social media, and to report back with respect to her findings; and
5. That the current staff member in charge of public works provide a report to Council on the cost incurred by the municipality for the Christmas tree erected at the municipal arena, including any staff involvement provided in-kind

Carried

10. Adjournment to Closed Meeting Session

Motion: #2022.02.22._____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

THAT, Council convenes into the Closed Session of this Regular Meeting of Council this 22nd day of February 2022, chaired by Mayor Penny Lucas, at _____ pm., to discuss the following items:

Closed Session Matters

Pursuant to Section 239(2) (a) (b) (d) (e), (f), of the Municipal Act:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board
 - Security of Township personnel and infrastructure
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable and individual including municipal or local board employees
 - Municipal Employee
 - Board Members - Proposal
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiation
 - Corporate Communications Strategy
 - Staffing - Public Works & Administration
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board
 - Technical Standard & Safety Authority
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose
 - NWMO Multi-Year Agreement (MYA)
 - Legal Contract

Carried

11. Reconvene to Regular Meeting of Council

Motion: #2022.02.22._____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

THAT, Council reconvenes to the Regular Meeting of Council this 22nd day of February 2022, chaired by Mayor Lucas at _____ pm.

Carried

12. Business Arising from Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of Council

13. Confirmatory By-Law

Motion: #2022.02.22. _____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

THAT, By-Law #23.2022, Being A By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Ignace Regular Meeting dated February 22nd, 2022 be read a First, Second, and Third Time, and Passed.

Carried

14. Adjournment

Motion: # 2022.02.22. _____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

THAT, the Regular Meeting of Council this 22nd day of February 2022, be adjourned at ____pm.

Carried



The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council
Monday, January 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm

ELECTRONIC MEETING

Council Mayor Penny Lucas
Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker
Councillor Debbie Hart
Councillor Greg Waldock
Councillor Shaun Defeo

Staff Lynda Colby – Clerk

Staff/Public (Zoom) 8 Participants

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Lands

1. Call to Order

Mayor Penny Lucas calls the Regular Meeting of Council to order this 17th day of January 2022, at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: #2022.01.17.006

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Seconded By: Cllr. Debbie Hart

THAT, the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council this 17th day of January 2022, be approved as amended.

5. Consent Agenda

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Reports | 2.6 Fire Chief Report |
| 3. Correspondence | 3.12 By-Law 105.2021 Schedule "A" 2 |
| | 3.13 Cobblestone Lodge Letter |

9. Notice of Motions

- 9.1 Notice of Motion Presented by Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Carried

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Delegations/Deputations/Presentations

None

5. Consent Agenda

Motion: #2022.01.17.007

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded By: Cllr. Greg Waldock

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace approves the Consent Agenda at the Regular meeting this 17th day of January 2022 as amended.

AND, all directions and/or any recommendations or motions included therein.

Amendments:

Added

2.6 - Fire Chief Report

3.12 – By-Law 105.2021 Schedule “A” 2 - Municipal Health Benefits for Council Members

3.13 – Cobblestone Lodge - Clifford and Denise Long Letter

9.1 Notice of Motion Presented by Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Pulled for Discussion

1.1 Regular Meeting of Council dated November 15, 2021

1.2 Special Meeting of Council dated December 13, 2021

2.3 Planning, Development & Engagement Services Department/Recreational Department

3.1 Notice of Motion - Amend Procedural By-Law 64/2020, Part 10, Section 10.3

3.3 Proclamation - Make January Alzheimer Awareness Month

3.12 By-Law 105.2021 Schedule “A” 2 - Municipal Health Benefits for Council Members

Carried

6. Consideration of Consent Items Requiring Discussion

1.1 Regular Meeting of Council dated November 15, 2021

12. Business Arising from Closed

Noted that Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker and Cllr. Greg Waldock declared a conflict due to renumeration for fire department.

1.2 Special Meeting of Council dated December 13, 2021

6.2 Ez-Ice Rink

Reporting that the Ez-Ice Rink system is on order.

2.3 Planning, Development & Engagement Services Department/Recreational Department

1. (f) Corporation/Communications Plan

Mayor advised Council that the Penny Tremblay Workplace Relationship Interviews were with Leadership Team and not Union Employees. Mayor Lucas is expecting that the Manager of Planning, Development & Engagement Services Department would be making a report to Council once the investigation of social media policies has been completed.

C. (d) High Speed Internet Grant

The Provincial portion has been approved and we are awaiting the Federal portion approval.

3.1 Notice of Motion - Amend Procedural By-Law 64/2020, Part 10, Section 10.3

Motion: #2022.01.17.008

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded By: Cllr. Greg Waldock

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accepts the Notice of Motion put forward/Moved by Councillor Debbie Hart.

FURTHER THAT, to amend Procedural By-Law #64/2020, Part 10, Section 103 "Proceedings of Regular Council Meetings" to include a reasonable time frame in which Councillors receive the Closed Section Agenda and Meeting Package;

FURTHER THAT, to amend the delivery method of the Closed Section Package to include the option of a secure electronic communication delivery, such as "through Township of Ignace Email Address Only".

AND FURTHER THAT, Council directs Administration to amend By-Law 64/2020, Part 10, Section 103 to read:

The Closed Session Meeting Agenda and Information Package shall be printed and placed in a sealed envelope marked “Confidential” and shall be circulated to Council by placing the package in each Councillors own mailbox inside the Township Office by 10:00 a.m. the Friday prior to the closed meeting. Any packages not picked up by end of day will be picked up by the Clerk and held in custody and subsequently delivered to the Councillor at the scheduled meeting. The closed session meeting information package is not public information.

Carried

3.3 Proclamation - Make January Alzheimer Awareness Month

Motion: #2022.01.17.009

Moved by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

Seconded By: Cllr. Greg Waldock

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accepts the correspondence from the Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts request that the Township of Ignace in the District of Kenora make a proclamation and motion to declare the month of January as Alzheimer Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, The Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River District also wish to have the Alzheimer Society Flag raised on the Flag Pole at the Township Office in respects to Alzheimer Awareness Month of each year.

WHEREAS, The Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts is Launching their January Alzheimer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Alzheimer Awareness Month is a recognized nationwide campaign challenging Canadians to rethink their perceptions of Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of dementia Locally, Provincially, and Nationally.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Penny Lucas, by the virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of the Township of Ignace in the District of Kenora, do hereby proclaim the month of January of each year as Alzheimer Awareness Month.

Carried

3.12 By-Law 105.2021 Schedule "A" 2 - Municipal Health Benefits for Council Members

Motion: #2022.01.17.010

Moved by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

Seconded By: Cllr. Debbie Hart

THAT, upon review of By-Law 105.2021 Schedule "A" Section 2, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace directions Administration to amend By-Law 105.2021 as follows:

The Members of Council shall be entitled to apply for Municipal Health Benefits in addition to Clause 1. Such benefits shall be paid by the Municipality on either a single or family basis at the cost of the Councillor.

Carried

7. Questions from the Public - None

8. By- Laws

8.1 By-Law #02.2022 - A By-Law Respecting the Borrowing of Money to Meet Current Expenditures - CIBC

Motion: #2022.01.17.011

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accepts the Report from Treasurer regarding the 2022 Temporary Borrowing of Monies to Meet Current Expenditures this 17th day of January, 2022.

FURTHER THAT, Council authorizes the passing of By-Law #02.2022, Being a By-Law to authorize the Temporary Borrowing of Monies to Meet the Current Expenditures of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace.

Carried

8.2 By-Law #03.2022 - A By-Law to provide for an Interim Tax Levy, the Payment of Taxes to provide for Charging of Penalty and interest at the Rate of One and One Quarter Precent Per month

Motion: #2022.01.17.012

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Greg Waldock

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accepts the Report from Treasurer regarding the 2022 Interim Tax Levy this 17th day of January, 2022.

FURTHER THAT, Council authorizes the passing of By-Law #03.2022, Being a By-Law to provide for the 2022 Interim Tax Levy and Late Payment Charges; and

FURTHER THAT, Council approves the 2022 Interim Tax Levy to be due in two installments with due dates to be the last working day in March and the last working day in April, 2022.

Carried

9. Notice of Motions

9.1 Notice of Motion Presented by Deputy Mayor Tucker

As per By-64/2020 14.19 Notice of Motion, the Notice of Motion from Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker was read into record by the Clerk.

Whereas Council is responsible for the financial stewardship of the municipality; and
Whereas the deployment and compensation of municipal staff, and an assessment of policy compliance, are important components of financial stewardship; and

Whereas ensuring the transparency of operations is crucial to the future planning of the township;
Now Therefore the Council of the Township of Ignace resolves as follows:

1. That the Treasurer be requested to provide a report to Council setting out applicable policies relating to payments or compensation to be made to management staff on account of overtime hours worked;
2. That the report indicates any variations from the policy which have occurred in the last 18 months;
3. That the Clerk be requested to provide a report to Council outlining the approval process and corresponding policies and procedures relating to any entitlement to RDO's (Regular Days Off) on alternate Fridays for non-unionized and management staff;
4. That the Clerk be requested to review the employee code of conduct to ensure that it appropriately guides against conduct and behaviours that are to be avoided on social media, and to report back with respect to her findings; and

That the current staff member in charge of public works provide a report to Council on the cost incurred by the municipality for the Christmas tree erected at the municipal arena, including any staff involvement provided in-kind

By-Law 64/2020 14.19.2 Notice of Motion shall be dealt with at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

10. Adjournment to Closed Meeting Session

Motion: #2022.01.17.013

Moved by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

THAT, Council convenes into the Closed Session of this Regular Meeting of Council this 17th day of January 2022, chaired by Mayor Penny Lucas, at **6:57 p.m.**, to discuss the following items:

Closed Session Matters

Pursuant to Section 239(2) (b) (d) (e), (f), of the Municipal Act:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable and individual including municipal or local board employees

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose

Carried

11. Reconvene into Regular Meeting of Council

Motion: #2022.01.17.014

Moved by: Cllr. Greg Waldock

Seconded by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

THAT, Council reconvened into the Regular Meeting of Council this 17th day of January 2022, chaired by Mayor Lucas, at **8:50 p.m.**

Carried

12. Business Arising from Closed Meeting Session

Motion: #2022.01.17.015

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Greg Waldock

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accepts the Clerks Report as amended Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2021 Section 239 (2) (b) personal matters about an indefinable and individual, including municipal or local board employees, this 17th day of January 2022.

Carried

Motion: #2022.01.17.016

Moved by: Cllr. Greg Waldock

Seconded by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accept, with regrets, Mr. Gerald Gannon's resignation from the Economic Development Advisory Committee and thanks him for his service.

Carried

Motion: #2022.01.17.017

Moved by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

THAT, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accept the report from the Manager of Planning, Development & Engagement Services Department/Recreation Department as presented this 17th day of January 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT, Council approves the hiring of a Community Designer and an Ignace Youth Engagement Coordinator both for a 24-month contract.

Carried

13. Confirmatory By-law

Motion: #2022.01.17.018

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

THAT, By-Law #04.2022 – Being A By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace Regular Meeting dated January 17, 2022 be read a First, Second, and Third Time, and Passed.

Carried

14. Adjournment

Motion: #2022.01.17.019

Moved by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

Seconded by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

THAT, the Regular Meeting of Council this 17th day of January 2022, be adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Carried

Mayor Penny Lucas

Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Councillor Debbie Hart

Councillor Shaun Defeo

Councillor Chantelle Tucker

Lynda Colby, Clerk



Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council
ELECTRONIC MEETING

Council

Mayor Penny Lucas
Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker
Councillor Debbie Hart
Councillor Greg Waldock
Councillor Shaun Defeo

Staff

Lynda Colby - Clerk
Christy McIntomney - Treasurer
Jeff Lederer, Manager of Planning and Development

Staff/Public

10 Participants

Acknowledgement of the Lands

1. Call to Order

Mayor Penny Lucas calls the Special Meeting of Council to order this 10th day of January 2022, at 6:03 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion: #2022.01.10.001

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

THAT, the Agenda for the Special Meeting of Council this 10th day of January 2022, be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Delegations/Deputations/Presentations

None

5. Questions from the Public

None

6. Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Motion: #2022.01.10.002

Moved by: Cllr. Greg Waldock

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

THAT, Council convenes into the Closed Session of this Special Meeting of Council this 10th day of January 2022 chaired by Mayor Penny Lucas, at 6:06 pm., to discuss the following items:

Closed Session Matters

**Pursuant to Section 239(3) of the Municipal Act
Educational or training sessions**

3.1 A meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.
2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 103 (1).

Carried

7. Reconvene into Special Meeting of Council

Motion: #2022.01.10.003

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

THAT, Council Reconvenes to the Special Meeting of Council this 10th day of January 2022 chaired by Mayor Lucas at 8:08 pm.

Carried

8. Business Arising

None

9. Confirmatory By-law

Motion: #2022.01.10.004

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Cllr. Shaun Defeo

THAT, By-Law #01.2022, Being A By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Ignace Special Meeting dated January 10th, 2022 be read a First, Second, and Third Time, and Passed.

Carried

10. Adjournment

Motion: #2022.01.10.005

Moved by: Cllr. Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

THAT, the Special Meeting of Council this 10th day of January 2022, be adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Carried

Mayor Penny Lucas

Deputy Mayor Chantelle Tucker

Councillor Debbie Hart

Councillor Shaun Defeo

Councillor Greg Waldock

Lynda Colby, Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 2021

At 6:00 PM @ Learn More Centre (members only) and via Zoom for the public
<https://zoom.us/j/96819226334?pwd=MVZUbXN5V01jVldrQ1hQM2VJL0pyQT09>



ICNLC Members:

Brad Greaves - Chair	Penny Lucas - Mayor	Regrets:
Lee Kennard	Roger Dufault	Donna Chief
Paul Dufault	Cindy Stark	Wyatt Mantle
Debbie Hart	Tyler Peacock	
Diana Baril		

NWMO:

Rachelle Davenport	Chantelle Gascon	Lisa Ferrara
Billy Moore	Geoff Crann	Mac Potter
Bill Gascon	Daila Delescaille	Vince Ponka
Caitlin Burley	Joanne Jacyk	

Township staff :

Kimberly Richards	Jeff Lederer	Keith Roseborough
Leisel Edwards		

1. **Call to Order – Chair Brad Greaves called the meeting of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee to order at 6:10 pm. November 10, 2021.**

2.

Verbal Motion: # 2021-1110-1

Moved by: Debbie Hart **Seconded by: Paul Dufault**

That, the Agenda of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee dated November 10th, 2021 be approved as amended.

Amendments: New Business a,b, and c to be moved to closed session at the end of the meeting. Adding Environmental and Indigenous updates to the end of NWMO’s section.

Carried

3. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

Cindy Stark declared conflict of interest regarding matters pertaining to Ignace Public Library and the Ignace Christmas Cheer. Cindy will not be voting on these matters.

4.

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-2

Moved by: Debbie Hart **Seconded by: Paul Dufault**

That, the minutes of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee dated October 13^h, 2021 be approved as amended.

Amendments: none



The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 2021

At 6:00 PM @ Learn More Centre(members only) and via Zoom for the public
<https://zoom.us/j/96819226334?pwd=MVZUbXN5V01iVidrQ1hQM2VJL0pyQT09>



Carried

5. Old Business

none

6. Review of ICNLC Terms of Reference

Brad asked members to review the Terms of Reference to discuss any possible changes in the January meeting.

7. Willingness Project Report Highlights

This month featured a presentation by Jeff Lederer from the Township of Ignace, and Dave Hardy from Hardy Stevenson and Associates about the results from the Willingness project so far. The goal of the project is to find out the best way for Ignace to make the decision on whether or not to be a willing host community. It began with a small working group at the beginning of the year. It was identified that it will be very important to go to the people of Ignace vs. expecting them to come to the Township or NWMO. Initiatives included a mail drop, the willingness survey which was advertised with a pop up on the Township's web page. The COVID-19 vaccination clinics were taken advantage of as a venue to have conversations with community members about the project. There was a panellist discussion held virtually. On October 15th there was an information sharing session between key community members, which is the last part of this step of the Willingness Project. There were 166 written responses in addition to hundreds of conversations. This response is relatively quite high for Ignace, and the number of responses to this survey were about the same as would be expected from engagement activity regarding an official plan or community strategy. The online engagement event went very good as well. In the Willingness survey participants were allowed to choose one or all four options for community engagement, and the variety of answers received highlighted the community's need to multiple pathways of engagement for having their voices heard. The forms of information sharing that were most requested by participants were newsletters and mail outs. They also wanted deliberation with others and more face to face open houses to answer any questions. Additional workshops and learning events, coffee chats and drop in sessions. The option with the least response was learning circles, which is speculated to be because people want a certain level of confidentiality in these matters and some are hesitant to share their opinion in public.

The general consensus from people is that they have learned enough about the APM Project over many years, and they are ready to make a decision when the time comes. A set of community voices said that their involvement today is an indicator of their support for the project, but there are still many residents who have not participated yet, and those people need to be reached. Among those who are typically hard to reach are the younger voices. They said that it is very important for the Township to continue communications and also open to other residents in Northwestern Ontario. There is a strong comment heard that the people want their say, and they like the multiple options to learn and participate in the willingness process. The door to door survey done by a third party that allows a confidential expression on if you are willing or not was seen to be important under the multiple avenues of getting involved.

One interesting thing that came from the data and the interviews etc. is that this should not just be one day that this happens. This should occur over a period of time. There have also been comments about how the ICNLC is so close to the project that they would make much better facilitators than decision makers. The



The Corporation of the Township of Ignace
Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 2021



At 6:00 PM @ Learn More Centre(members only) and via Zoom for the public

<https://zoom.us/j/96819226334?pwd=MVZUbXN5V01jVidrQ1hQM2VJLOpyQT09>

community for the most part agreed to have confidence in Council as the legal body authorized to make the decision with a strong input from residents. There was a draft process that was shared previously, which has now been tailored to reflect the new findings in the community.

The feedback about how the process should be adapted focused on firstly making a decision that reflects the values of Ignace. Secondly, a decision to host the APM Project must go through multiple dialogue and decision activities including a community survey. Thirdly, the role of the ICNLC for the summarizing and drawing a conclusion as facilitators would also be an adaptation. Fourth, there needs to be a step before a choice is made for the community to pause and be aware of the direction in which they are heading prior to final decision making. The fifth is that based on all of the other steps and information, Ignace Council will review their choice and confirm the choice by resolution. The last two steps weren't changed from the draft process.

Now that the data has come back, the Township will be providing a one page summary that will be dropped off to every resident to show them what the results are, and that it is not just one clear result. There's going to be four options that are currently being pursued. The Township will be looking into hiring an independent third party consultant to facilitate the process.

The Willingness Project will continue for approximately another year before a decision is made. The Township hopes to have the report finalized by the end of November 2021, and the report will be brought up to Council during the December Special Meeting of Council to review and accept the information provided.

In discussion with the ICNLC after the presentation, the issue came up about the scheduled change of ICNLC members after the Municipal Election in the Fall of 2022. The effect of entirely new ICNLC members on making an informed recommendation to Council is unknown, but the ICNLC is discussing making a recommendation to the current Council to extend the current ICNLC group to stay on Committee until at least 2023. Other options for rotating the members of the Committee may be considered as well when the ICNLC meets again in January.

8. ICNLC Storefront Update – Jeff Lederer

Jeff showed the concept renderings by Kim Richards of the upcoming ICNLC Storefront. The storefront will be located in what is currently the Township storage room, which is being renovated for completion in January or February 2022. The side door is being removed, a new main entrance is being placed in the boardwalk, and the office will have office space for two employees and a community area with seating and literature. There will be a door connecting to the Multi Purpose Room as well as the bathroom facilities shared with Ignace Public Library. The current Library storage room will be made separate from the new space, and a new wall and door will be added to create the Library's own secure area for storing museum artefacts and documents.

9. Borehole Tour Opportunity – Chantelle Gascon

Chantelle reminded the CLC and the public that there are borehole tours happening on November 17th at 12:00-4:00 and November 24 at 8:30 to 12:00.

10. Discussion Regarding ICNLC Initiatives for 2022



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- More town hall meetings if able to do so
- The new storefront will be huge and it needs to be well advertised.
- Having members of the ICNLC present in the ICNLC to talk to people.
- Door to Door engagement done by the ICNLC
- Guest book at storefront
- The ICNLC members need to review the Terms of Reference and make sure that they reflect the goals and values of the Committee.
- Brad encouraged members to think about what initiatives they would like to see.

11. ICNLC Engagement Update – Kim Richards

Kim circulated information in the meeting package about initiatives that were completed in 2021, including feedback from youth and some events that they would like to see in the future. Upcoming there is the Robots and Pancakes on November 13th, and a PAL course on November 13-14th. In December Kim has been collaborating with Contact North for a free Dating Violence course, as well as a three day free G1 prep course. Kim has been looking into having DriveTest come to Ignace in February to run a G1 and potentially G2 testing day, which will be brought up to the ICNLC at the January meeting if it is able to be done. Lastly, the Township in partnership with NWMO is hosting Teens in Motion Christmas Bash in the Upper Curling Hall in mid December.

12. Approval of new 2022 ICNLC Brochure and Mail-Out

Kim outlined some information included in the new brochure which will be circulated upon approval to Ignace residents.

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-3

Moved by: Diana Baril

Seconded by: Roger Dufault

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee approves the 2022 Brochure for distribution and expenditure from the Advertising Budget for \$525 +HST for printing 600 brochures and \$100 for mailing out to Ignace residents.

Carried

13. Regional Partner Update – Tyler Peacock

The City of Dryden is busy with wrapping up 2021 in terms of budget for 2021 and project planning for 2022. Dryden has been working with a local business owner who wants to start a vertical farming operation in Dryden. If Council approves the project it will be run as part of Dryden's Community Improvement Plan projects.

14. Township Update – Jeff Lederer

The Township has received eight expressions of interest for the senior centre and 20 unit housing complex. They are now in the process of evaluating the proposals and they will be meeting with the committee to ask the mto provide a more detailed study to provide estimated costs. This stage will hopefully be wrapped up by February and work with KDSB and look at different options. The Plaza redevelopment is still ongoing and signage is being designed and hopefully get some final concepts for that by February or March.

15. NWMO Updates

- a) **Introductions: new associates – Rachelle Davenport**



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Rachelle introduced Lisa Ferrara and Daila Delescaille as the new Site Engagement Associates for the Northwest Engagement team.

b) Engagement Update – Chantelle Gascon

Chantelle provided a written report in the meeting package. NWMO has been focusing on the Youth Advisory Council and Youth Engagement Strategy and working with the Township, Mary Berglund, Contact North, and Crossroads to provide a number of new initiatives for youth that will be kicking off this month and rolling out through to 2022. They are expecting to increase their regional engagement and have more visibility in the Northwest throughout the rest of this year moving into 2022. The Satellite Office in Dryden will be staffed. There is hope with the lifting of COVID and capacity limits that in person conferences, larger learning events at the Learn More Centre, anticipated fairs and festivals that are happening in person that NWMO will be providing in kind support for. There has been a lot more requests for in kind support to volunteer at events, such as Teens in Motion, as well as requests for sponsorships and donations. With a focus on food programming, NWMO supported Christmas Cheer and new this year was a Treat or Eat event for Halloween. Residents were encouraged to fill the bags with food for the food bank and bring them into the Learn More Centre for a chance to win a prize. Over 30 bags were raised for that initiative. The Mobile Learn More Centre will hopefully be continuing to engage as many people as possible going into 2022.

c) Transportation Update – Caitlin Burley

Over the past couple of months there have been a couple of documents released on transportation. Transportation System Conceptual Design Report and What We Heard About the Draft Transportation Planning. Both documents were shared with the public in the chat and forward the documents to the ICNLC members. In December they will be releasing the revised framework as well as the preliminary transportation plan. The latter is aimed at answering questions about transportation. This will include information about road and rail logistics, answering some of the questions about logistics that have been heard. The document includes real life Q&As that were asked through engagement. These are living documents, which means that they are always open to feedback, questions, and concerns. Caitlin is hoping to come back and present to the CLC and or workshops depending on the interest to get feedback on these two documents.

She shared links to the following two new transportation documents:

1) The Transportation System Conceptual Design Report:

<https://www.nwmo.ca/~/-/media/Site/Reports/2021/09/21/19/56/APMREP004400209.ashx?la=en>

2) What We Heard about the draft transportation planning framework:

<https://www.nwmo.ca/~/-/media/Site/Files/PDFs/2021/09/21/20/38/WWH-about-transportation-202021--EN.ashx?la=en>

d) Technical Update – Geoff Crann

Testing is almost complete on Borehole 5 as they enter the last phase of that operation, with the installation of the monitoring system within the hole. That will take another week and then they will demobilize the site, which should be finished in 3-4 weeks. Borehole 6 has been drilled, which completes all of the drilling for this site in pre-site selection. Borehole 6 is now in the middle of the testing phase that started the last couple of days that still has another few months of testing ahead. During this time Borehole 6 will begin demobilizing, which is set around the end of February. This will complete the field aspect of the deep drilling and testing campaign in pre-site selection. Since the last CLC meeting NWMO has updated the shallow groundwater monitoring well system, which has three wells across the site. Those wells are now ready to be monitored and tested quarterly in the years ahead.



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e) Partnership Update – Mac Potter

NWMO has been working with Ignace to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Fall of 2021.. The MOU with the Township of Ignace was intended to outline the process as it relates to a potential hosting agreement. If the community is designated as the host, the MOU identifies the pathway between NWMO and the Township and how the hosting agreement will be approached. Overall the purpose is to foster and facilitate effective communication and making sure in terms of respectful and transparent dialogue moving ahead. Additionally, a Terms of Reference (TOR) with the City of Dryden As a significant neighbouring community, the TOR acknowledges the City of Dryden’s position relating to the project. The working group that these TOR defines is not only intended to help drive dialogue, particularly as it relates to partnership, but also provide city of Dryden staff the opportunity to ask questions, be informed, and work through a number of key aspects including some significant community studies as well. As a neighbouring community, Dryden will be kept up to date on the project.

f) Environmental Update – Billy Moore

The Environmental Baseline Monitoring contract managed by KGS is wrapped up for the 2021 season. For surface water samplings they completed a summer and fall campaign. Soil quality had a slow start for a number for different reasons, and they are hoping to finish up that program in 2022. The Hydrology Program was completed as program for 2021 including bathymetric surveys, water level monitoring in lakes and ponds, as well as flow monitoring in rivers and streams. HM or Aquatic Habitat Mapping program was completed in full, meaning all sites that were planned to be visited were visited. Due to the drought conditions a lot of the sites were dry. The data will be reviewed over the winter to determine if and where efforts for future surveys should be focused and fill in any data gaps if they exist. Ecosystem mapping and habitat suitability modeling is wrapped up for the year as well. They completed just over half of the intended sites, which will hopefully be completed in 2022. The MET station has been up and operational since August and collecting data. The eDNA sampling summer samples were sent to the University of Guelph for analysis, which they are wrapping up this week. The fall campaign samples are being shipped next week as well for analysis. The Bat Monitoring Program in partnership with Toronto Zoo research team has continued since May; two passive monitors in two locations on site have been collecting data. They will be collected for the winter months.

g) Communications Update – Vince Ponka

The Mobile Learn More Unit travelled across Northwestern Ontario over the summer including spending two weeks in Thunder Bay, which allowed for hundreds of conversations with people in the region and increased the education in people in the area. They continue to share updates with regional media to help people learn more about the work being done on the project. There has been an increase in opposition voices including a new group in Dryden called the Sunset Country Spirit Alliance. NWMO has been talking with all of these groups to better understand what their concerns are. Misinformation about nuclear power and the project continue to circulate, which makes this type of engagement so important. Borehole tours have been very popular and they’re going to continue in the coming weeks. There have been a number of unprompted letters to the editor supporting the project in the past months, which is very encouraging that people are receiving information that gives them an accurate view of this project.

h) Relationship Manager Update – Rachelle Davenport

There have been about 200 people who have visited the borehole tour site including teachers, 120 students from Lakehead University, community members, the Dryden Rotary, and tours are planned for Dryden Council and Staff, and requests from students who are linking the project to their curriculum. The Ignace Municipal Satellite Office in Dryden is going to be a shared space with NWMO and the Township. NWMO will be supporting Ignace in their ‘community people talking to community people’, which really is the



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message of the satellite office. With the new Site Engagement Associates, both the Ignace Office and the Ignace Satellite Office in Dryden will be able to be staffed by NWMO. Eric Kremer, NWMO’s Site and Safety Assessment Section Manager is planning on coming up to the Ignace area once a month to engage with community members and staff. Promotional material will be shared to let people know when he will be in the area. NWMO board members were planning a tour to the Ignace area pre-COVID, which got cancelled, and so hopefully in Q1 or Q2 of 2022 they will come up and visit the region so that they have a firm understanding of what it’s like to live in the north. Dryden will be hosting a panel discussion including NWMO panellists and members of the oppotion groups (Sunset Country Spirit Alliance, Environment North and Northwatch)on December , 2021.

- The Vice President of Site Selection, Lise Morton, will be visiting the area from November 30, 2021 to December 1, 2021; the purpose of the visit is to meet with Melgund Local Services Board, the Village of Wabigoon Local Services Board, WLON, the City of Dryden and community members in proximity to the site.
- The NWMO is preparing for their 2022 Engagement Work Planning. Rachele requested feedback from the ICNLC members on potential presentations or topics for the ICNLC in 2022.

16. Correspondence and Information

- A copy of a letter addressed to NWMO received from the Long Lake Property Owners. The letter was included in the meeting package for members’ information.
- A copy of a new letter from We the Nuclear Free North was included in the meeting package as well that was circulated to Ignace residents via Canada Post.

17. Report or Input of Community Members

a) Community Studies Update – Cindy Stark

The minutes from the Inter Group meetings (every two months) will continue to be circulated with the CLC as they become available. The next inter Group meeting is December 2nd.

18. The Meeting of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee dated November 10th, 2021 went into closed session at 7:50 pm

19. Proposed EIES Initiatives – Ignace Public Library

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-4

Moved by: Debbie Hart

Seconded by: Paul Dufault

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee approves the expenditure from the EIES budget funds up to \$4,714.26 for the purpose of purchasing STEAM resources for Ignace Public Library.

Carried

20. Proposed EIES Initiatives – Ignace Public School

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-5



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Moved by: Cindy Stark Seconded by: Diana Baril

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee approves the expenditure from the EIES budget up to \$9,000 for the fees associated with hiring a motivational speaker to speak on the topic of mental health and/or drugs and self-medication to come to Ignace Public School when they are able.

Amendments: specifying the topics of mental health and/or drugs and self-medication.

Carried

21. Christmas Cheer Fund Donation

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-6

Moved by: Debbie Hart Seconded by: Roger Dufault

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee approves the expenditure from the Youth Initiatives budget of \$4,000 for the purchase of gift packages for the Christmas Cheer Committee for youth in the community.

Amendments: Increasing the original motion for \$2,000 to \$4,000

Carried

22. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee

Kim Richards informed the Committee that according to the Terms of Reference a new Chair and Vice-Chair person should be selected at the November meeting for the upcoming year and Kim then called for nominations for the Chair position.

The following nominations were received:

- 1. Brad Greaves**

Brad Greaves was elected as the ICNLC Chairperson by the Committee members.

Kim called for nominations for the Vice-Chair position.

The following nominations were received:

- 1. Cindy Stark**

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-7

Moved by: Tyler Peacock Seconded by: Roger Dufault

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee elects Brad Greaves as Chair of the ICNLC.

Carried

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-8



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Moved by: Tyler Peacock

Seconded by: Debbie Hart

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee elects Cindy Stark as the Vice-Chair of the ICNLC.

Carried

23. The Meeting of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee dated November 10th, 2021 came out of closed session at 8:20 pm

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-9

Moved by: Roger Dufault

Seconded by: Debbie Hart

That, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee accepts all of the actions completed in camera.

Carried

24. Adjournment

Verbal Motion: #2021-1110-10

Moved by: Roger Dufault

Seconded by: Debbie Hart

That, the meeting of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee dated November 10th, 2021 be adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Carried



The Corporation of the Township of Ignace

34 Hwy 17 W., PO Box 248,
Ignace, ON P0T 1T0

Mayor's Message February 2022

January started off slowly. I went to the optometrist in Dryden to get my vision checked and later that week attended at the fabulous Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub for my COVID-19 booster shot. Thank you so much to the front-line professionals and all the staff at the MBCHCH for keeping our community well.

The first week of January, as Vice-Chair of the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA), I met with the rest of the Executive as we prepared for our meetings with Provincial Ministers during the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference – (virtually) January 23rd to 25th. You will find my report and copies of the briefing notes in the correspondence portion of the Council package.

As a member of the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) executive, I met with the members to finalize the Resolutions to be presented to Provincial Ministers during the KDMA virtual conference, January 19th & 20th, put on through the City of Dryden (who did a fabulous job – congratulations). Those resolutions are also in the correspondence portion of the Council package.

On the 27th of January I attended my first meeting (teleconference) as a member of the Board of Management of the District of Kenora Homes for the Aged – Pinecrest (Kenora), Princess Court (Dryden) and Northwood Lodge (Red Lake).

There were two Council meetings in January – one on the 10th with Principles Integrity, our new integrity commissioners for an education session and the Regular Council meeting on the 17th.

Administration and I have been meeting on a regular basis with the Steering Committee and seniors regarding the proposed Senior's Housing Complex and the Silver Tops Seniors Hall.

As always, there are weekly and monthly meetings with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) as we move through the process as we learn more about the possibility of becoming the host community for Canada's Adaptive Phased Management Plan and the Deep Geological Repository for used nuclear fuel. Included in the learning process are the monthly meetings of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC), made up of Ignace and our surrounding community members and are advertised and open to the public.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve you. My contact information is listed below.

Penny Lucas, Mayor
Tel: (807)934-2202, ext. 1038
Cell: (807)220-0217
plucas@ignace.ca

The Corporation of the Township of Ignace

Staff Report

To: Council

From: Christy McIntomney, Treasurer

Meeting Date: February 21st, 2022

Subject: Monthly Finance Department –January 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council receives the January 2022 Monthly Report for the Township Finance Department for information purposes.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

Overview of the January 2022 monthly report for the Finance Department.

Highlights Staffing Changes

The Temporary Full-Time Accounts Clerk has accepted a full-time position as the Arena Attendant/Operator Labour, I would like to extend a congratulations and wish Shannon McKay every success in her future endeavors with the Township of Ignace at the Arena. The Temporary Full-Time Accounts Clerk position has been filled by Al Richards who started in his position as of January 18th, 2022.

The Tax Clerk position has been filled by the return of Sonnya Dufault to the position welcome back.

As the Treasurer I am looking forward to moving forward in 2022 with this hardworking Finance Team.

Utilities

The Finance Department is working on compiling a report to Council on residential and commercial water accounts; the status of accounts - which accounts are being fully charged, partially charged, how many accounts are outstanding and the length of time the accounts have been outstanding.

A new module for the Neptune 360 has been installed on the Accounting Software – Asyst and the Accounts Clerk now has the task on ensuring that all the Meter sizes are added to the software in order to be able to upload the files so that the new Neptune

360 System can be implemented. The updated software is flexible to allow the use of the N-Sight for Meter readings until the data has been entered and checked.

Accounts Payable/Receivables

The Accounts Payables are now on a scheduled cycle for bi-weekly cheque runs. The Accounts Receivables are being billed and reconciled on a monthly basis. The accounts clerk is reviewing and reconciling the year end accounts.

Municipal Taxes

The SAS Upload has been completed which will now enable the Tax Clerk to run the Interim Tax Bills in February 2022.

Payroll

The OMERS Reconciliation is currently in progress with approximately 95% completion; once completed the year end preparation of T-4's for 2021 will be completed.

Budget Process

The Treasurer is currently working with the Leadership Team to complete a detailed listing of 2022 Capital requests which will include projected 2022 new Capital Projects along with previous years projects not completed. Working on a timeline as to when the Draft #1 will be presented to the Council along with the public input into the 2022 budget.

Audit Process

The Treasurer has had a meeting with the Auditors to co-ordinate a schedule to complete the 2020 Financial Statements. The Auditors are projecting to come to Ignace to do the Interim Audit in early March 2022 with a projected completion date of June 2022 for the 2020 Financial Statements

Conclusion

The Finance Department has been moving forward with improved efficiencies, reconciliations are done on a monthly basis.

As the finance department continues to move forward it is still very busy department with not only the day-to-day operations but also trying to reconcile previous years financials.



Christy McIntomney, *Dipl. M.M.*
Treasurer

Prepared By: Jeff Lederer, Manager of Planning, Development, and Engagement Services

Report To: Mayor and Council

Subject: January Department Review

Date: February 5, 2022

1. Planning and Development

Our department has expanded to include new positions. We welcome Karen Dufault as the new Youth Engagement Coordinator, Kim Richards as the new Community Designer, and Trista Visseau as the new Recreation Programmer. We also continue to work on various projects and policies that are highlighted below:

a) Compliance Certificates

We reviewed/prepared 7 property compliance certificates as well as reviewed 4 bylaw and zoning inquiries. We continue to develop a series of "Did you know" segments relating to zoning and site plan control and will be publishing those in the Monthly Township Bulletin. The Chief Building Official (CBO) is mentoring the Bylaw Enforcement Officer to take over more review and assessment. Building permits for a couple of residential proposals remain under reviewed with the CBO.

b) Senior Centre Complex

A RFP for the 3 selected contractors is presently being finalized with the hopes of sending them out to them by February 11, 2022. Geotechnical and site planning will occur between February 9 and 11 as well as an Environmental Site Assessment 1 for the property.

The Township also met with the Silver Tops Executive and members to provide an update of both the housing complex. The Township has offered to work with the Silver Tops to apply for grant funds to help with the associated costs for remediation and renovation work over the next couple of months. Primarily, the kitchen renovation, expansion of space, and interior/exterior upgrades are being planned.

c) Plaza Redevelopment

Design options for the "Ignace" sign are being finalized along with the tree grates and furnishings. We hope to have these in place during the summer season.

d) Senior Walk/Urban Art Trail

Kim Richards continues to refine the trail determining optimal location for installations, seating, and planters.

e) Doggie Park

Work continues – the committee will be meeting in February to discuss funding and finalize design options.

f) Ignace Landfill Site

The Township must prioritize this project and start developing a working/action plan to complete the projects associated with this project. I am hoping a steering committee will be in place so we can begin as soon as possible.

g) Lily Pad Lake Walking Trails

Work is being finalized various concepts for a walking boardwalk along Lily Pad Road. We will be consulting with the local MNDMNR in February/March to determine restrictions in developing the boardwalk that will connect the existing trail to the parking areas on either end.

2. Recreation (Update by Karen Dufault, Temporary Recreation Programmer)

a) EZ Outdoor Rink

The new EZ Outdoor Rink System has arrived and will be placed on the west side of the Ignace Recreation Complex (closest by the Curling Rink side). The goal is to have it up and running and to prepare for the February winter activities.

b) First Nations Course/Soft Food Handling

The Recreation Programmer starting the First Nations Course, and completed the safe food handling course.

c) Sliding Party – Winterfest Activities

The sliding party at Tower Hill was successful with 70 people attending and many children participating in the cardboard box races.

d) Ontario Ice Fishing Challenge

The Recreation Programmer contacted and arranged for local prizes for the Ontario Ice Fishing challenge that uses an app to fish, which is a covid safe way to participate. The prizes have been posted on social media and we anticipate a solid uptake for participants.

3. Community Engagement (Update by Leisel Edwards)

a) Ignace and Area Baseline and Community Studies

The Township of Ignace, together with the NWMO and InterGroup Consultants Ltd are moving ahead with the baseline and community studies, particularly the People and Health Study. A Community Health Assessment (CHA) workshop was held on January 24th, 2022 to present the current understanding of

health services in Ignace based on secondary sources. Participants consisted of health care providers and professionals from the Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub, Northwestern Health Unit, Dryden Regional Mental Health and Addictions Service, Dryden Regional Health Centre, and Grand Council Treaty #3, along with Township staff and NWMO representatives. Information received from the workshop discussions would be used to advance the CHA with refinements, in order to complete the People and Health study.

The Township of Ignace have engaged in a recruitment exercise, inviting its regional partners such as the Patricia Area Community Endeavours (PACE), Kenora District Services Board KDSB) and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) to join the Ignace and Area Community Studies Working Group (IAWG). This is in an attempt to ensure that more regional perspectives are included throughout the study and that the right knowledge holders are involved in the development and implementation of the baseline and community studies. Thus far we are happy to report that we have been successful at recruiting Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer at KDSB and Shannon Wogenstahl, Executive Director at PACE. The next IAWG is scheduled to take place virtually on February 24th, 2022

All five (5) community studies, that is, Economic and Finance; People and Health; Community and Culture; Infrastructure and Tourism, are underway. After reviewing and evaluating submitted proposals, the Township selected a successful candidate that we are confident is capable to efficient complete the study. Once clarifications to the scope of work are reviewed, the Township would move ahead to finalise a contract with the contracted firm to facilitate next steps.

A second consultant consortium took place in January, and similar to the first one held in October, 2021 the Township, NWMO and the consultants for the Economic and Finance; People and Health; Community and Culture; Infrastructure studies met to discuss work plans, data sharing, timelines and general steps moving forward. All firms are currently in the data collection phase of the studies, working together in areas where studies overlap and linkages were established. June 2022 still remains as the expected completion date for all five (5) studies.

b) Willingness

The Willingness Team met in January to begin strategizing the “Willingness Implementation”. It will begin to plan a pathway that will occur over the next year providing several key and targeting venues to help gauge public opinion and their willingness in supporting/not supporting the proposed NWMO Deep Geological Repository (DGR). Part of this process will include a peer-reviewed committee made of nation-wide, independent academics and professionals who are experts in the fields of community engagement/willingness, environment, safety, and community economic development.

4. Economic Development Advisory Committee (Update by Leisel Edwards)

a) Gardening Services Request for Pre-Qualifications (RFPQ)

The Corporation of the Township of Ignace in collaboration with the EDAC have finalized a Request for Pre-Qualifications which will be released on the week of February 7th, 2022. This is an invitation to local entrepreneurs who may be interested in providing gardening services to the municipality to submit information outlining their education, landscaping background and experience as well as general qualifications that would make them prime candidates for the position/contract.

The successful contractor will provide early spring to late fall maintenance of all planting beds on the Township's properties. They will work with the Public Works Manager to plan and budget for future projects to maintain attractiveness while following relevant Township property maintenance codes and by-laws. It should be noted that the RFPQ's scope of work will not include lawn care as this is already part of Public Work's portfolio. The municipality will be the point person for monitoring and supervising the contractor and they will be considered a client and not a Township employee. The EDAC will be kept abreast of all work done and will provide support where necessary.

The contract period is anticipated to span from May 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022 with a possibility of renewal based on performance. The contractor will be expected to work on average 12 to 15 hours per week.

5. ICNLC/Community Design (Update by Kim Richards)

During the month of January, the focus has been on finalizing concepts for various Township planning projects that included correspondence with several contractors for quotes and advice on many aspects of these projects. The ICNLC Coordinator has also spent some time working on the Indigenous Canada course that the Engagement Team at Ignace Township have chosen to take (over halfway through the units).

Coordinating all administrative duties for the ICNLC continues with the meeting on January 9th being a productive one as the Committee reviewed their Terms of Reference and goals for the year. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions during January the planned ICNLC engagement events have been postponed until March. The Mini-Essential-Skills workshop series will resume when able.

6. Grants

a) Municipal Modernization Grant 3

I am happy to announce that the Township was successful in receiving funding of \$106,848 towards improvement for service and program delivery modernization. Specifically, these funds will be used towards upgrades for information and communication technology and data/informatics to manage assets, improve services, and enable opportunities through the following components: i) e-commerce; ii) digital citizen participation; and iii) GPS technology. E-commerce will be introduced to provide residents with more choice with respect to "doing business" with the municipality from paying taxes and utilities and booking programs and services to scheduling events and participating in programs.

Internally, enhanced financial and scheduling software will allow staff to process orders more quickly (they will be able to view entire from purchase order request, invoice, and payment) as well as reviewing scheduling and event planning all the while eliminating time and paper waste. Digital citizen participation will provide users with additional platforms to engage in a range of community issues and topics – providing more outreach and options for engagement will better assist our community programmers in tailoring and addressing needs of the community. Finally, the incorporation of GPS technology will provide efficiencies in managing & monitoring driver activities, optimizing the dispatch of maintenance vehicles, monitoring remote vehicle performance and reducing fleet and overhead costs.

b) Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) – Prepared by Leisel Edwards

A new application is being submitted for the construction of the Seniors Centre, which will now be built in a separate location from the Silver Tops (the lands between Crossroads Employment Centre and the Baptist Church). It has been decided that the Silver Tops will be renovated and that a separate funding application will be submitted by the board to NOHFC to facilitate these renovations. The Township will offer support where necessary.

A new resolution with additional details is required for the Seniors Walk and Urban Art Trail to complete Stage 2 of the funding application.



Township of Ignace
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Prepared By: Lynda Colby, Clerk
Report To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Corporate Services Update
Date: January 18, 2022

Corporate Service Update:

The Corporate team is committed to delivering critical support and continue to actively work diligently daily with the reviewing and updating of Township by-laws, preparation of Council packages and minutes, scheduling and attending various committee meetings, completion of marriage and lottery licenses while ensuring integrity and efficiency of the Township information.

The Township of Ignace continues to review the Township By-Laws to ensure all records are updated and current.

Township By-Laws can be viewed on the Township website: <https://ignace.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/>

During the month of January, the majority of the team members worked from home due to the Covid 19 Omicron outbreak as per the Provincial government mandate. With the exception of the Finance team and Public Works team who worked their regularly scheduled shifts, with the exception of staggered arrival times.

Asset Management:

Rhonda has been working very diligently on updating our Policy Manual along with requested By-laws from the MLEO. She is continuing to work on completing the Township Asset Registry. Rhonda has also compiled the various documents required to update our Health and Safety Boards at all locations.

Staffing Update:

The Township is pleased to welcome and announce the following new team members:

Shannon McKay has recently been awarded and accepted the position as a Permanent Full-time Arena Attendant/Equipment Operator/Labourer position with the Public Works department.

Al Richards recently been awarded and accepted the position as Temporary Full-time Accounts Clerk with the finance team.

Joel Requarth recently has been awarded and accepted the position as the Temporary Part-time Waste Management Labourer with the Public Works Department.

Roger Roy recently has been awarded and accepted the position as with Temporary Full-time Equipment Operator/Labourer with the Public Works team.

Committees:

Ontario Police Service Association Board Committee (OPSAB) 2022 scheduled meeting are as follows:

- **February 15, 2022**
- **May 16,2022**
- **August 16, 2022**
- **November 15,2022**

Anyone who may have questions with regards to the meeting please contact Roxanne Cox at the Township office.

Ignace Municipal Aerodrome Advisory Committee (IMAAC)

Date for the next IMAAC meeting is scheduled in February/March 2022. Anyone who may have questions with regards to the meeting please contact Roxanne Cox at the Township office.

Ignace Cemetery Committee (ICC):

The next ICC meeting is scheduled in April 2022, date to be announced at a later date. Anyone who may have questions with regards to the meeting please contact Lynda Colby at the Township office.

**Lynda Colby
Clerk**



Township of Ignace

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Ignace, Ontario P0T 1T0

Phone: 807-934-2202 Fax: 807-934-2864

Prepared By: Lynda Colby, Clerk
Report To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Public Work - January Review
Date: Feb. 08, 2022

PW Activity Update

The Public Works staff have done a great job with operations around road, sidewalk and hydrant maintenance. With the large amount of snowfall, it is necessary to haul some of the excess snow to the Townships dedicated snow dump zones. The team continues to work at ensuring adequate road width, while maintain a clear line of site for safety.

Preventative sewer flushing of the municipal sanitary sewer lines are scheduled regularly to ensure preventative maintenance of the Township asset.

Staffing Update:

The Public Works Department has recently hired new members to the team and would like to welcome the following new team members:

- Shannon McKay - Permanent Full-Time Arena Attendant/Equipment Operator/Labourer
- Joel Requarth - Temporary Part-Time Waste Management Labourer
- Roger Roy - Temporary Full-Time Equipment Operator/Labourer

Certification Update

Township would like to acknowledge and congratulate Nathan Naumann on his successful completion of the Mandatory Certificate renewal course.

Recreation Centre

With the Provincial restrictions January was a quiet month for the Recreation Centre. During the closure of the facility staff were busy cleaning the facility to ensure that upon the lifting of the restrictions the facility was ready to be used by all user groups.

Waste Management

Regular landfill maintenance continues to ensure that the Township is in compliance with the Ministry of Environment, as well as following the Design and Operating plan (DOP) completed by Pinchin Consultants.

Winter landfill hours are Wednesday's and Saturdays from 12 to 4 pm.

Commercial Waste Collection – Monday's and Thursday's

Residential Waste Collection – Thursday's

Regards,

Lynda Colby
Clerk

Ignace Fire Department
January 2022 Report to Council

December Emergency Calls: 9

Highway – 9

- 3 cancelled on route to scene
- 1 incident not found
- 1 call to Upsala Fire

January 5th – Single vehicle accident in ditch on Highway 17 West.

January 14th – Multi vehicle accident on Highway 17 East.

January 15th – TT unit in ditch on Highway 17 East.

- Incident Not Found.

January 20th – Single vehicle accident on Highway 17 East at English River bridge.

- Cancelled on route to scene

January 21st – Single vehicle accident in ditch on Highway 17 West.

- Cancelled on route to scene.

January 22nd – 2 Tractor trailer units in ditch on Highway 17 West.

- Cancelled on route to scene.

January 24th – Car v Tow Truck at junction of Highway 17 & Highway 622

January 24th – TT unit jack-knifed on Highway 17 West.

January 24th – TT unit in water at English River Bridge on Highway 17 East.

- Called Upsala Fire to attend incident.

No Training / Meetings held in January due to COVID 19 .

Posted Internally for a Trainer Position.



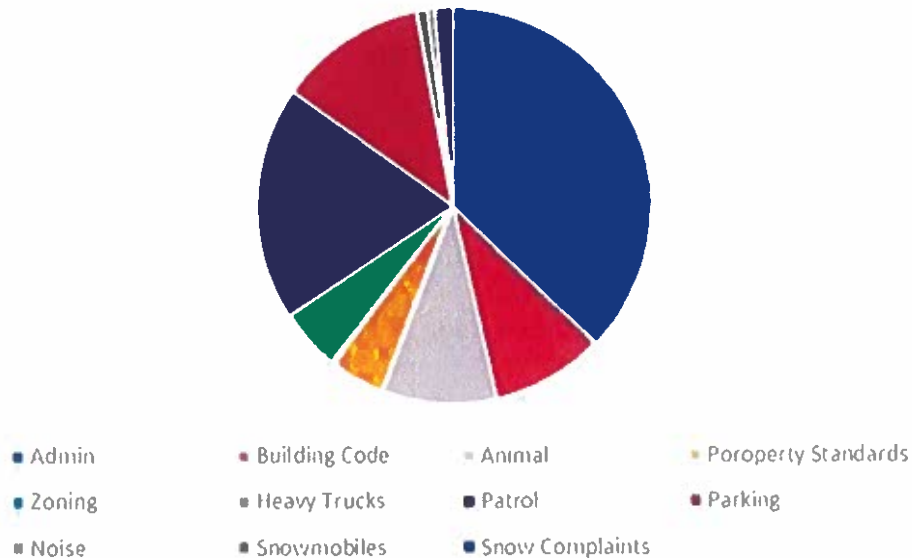
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Prepared By: Dan Arbour, MLEO / PSO / ACO
Report To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Monthly Activity Report
Date: January 28, 2022

Background

This report has been generated to provide the Township of Ignace, Mayor and Council a detailed account of the types of calls and duties that I have been addressing since last Council Meeting.

Call Activity Log



Recommendation

That the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace receives this report, pertaining to the activity of the MLEO/PSO/ACO.

And Further That Council does hereby acknowledge that there was a total of one hundred and forty- seven (147) complaints/ calls or inquiries made by the residents of Ignace, during the period of 08 December 2021 to 28 January 2022; with the majority being of "Parking and Animal" calls. This number does not include the anonymous complaints that have been received.

Conclusion

That the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace does hereby consider and acknowledge the contents of this report.

Sincerely,



Dan Arbour
Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
Property Standards Officer
Animal Control Officer

Prepared By: Jeff Lederer, Manager of Planning, Development, and Engagement
Services c/o Paul Dufault, EDAC Chair

Report To: Mayor and Council

Subject: EDAC Chair Monthly Report

Date: February 5, 2022

Recommendation:

Based on the recommendation of the EDAC Chair, that Council consider the following motions through resolution if applicable:

THAT EDAC strongly encourages Town Council to develop a strategic plan which will address the urgent need to implement the FireSmart Program in a timely fashion - EDAC Motion # 2021.11.03;

THAT EDAC strongly encourages Council and the Township to recognize the problems associated to mankind because of "Climate Change" whereby Council could in this respect develop a "Solar Energy Plan" that would envision solar panel installation on municipal public buildings (i.e., Arena, Tourist Information Centre, Town garage, Water Treatment plant) - EDAC Motion # 2021.11.04;

THAT EDAC recommends to Council to accept the design and installation of two 8' x 12' billboard signs as presented herein and to be located east (across from Northwoods Motel) and west (just passed West Beach Drive) within the settlement boundary of the Township of Ignace (note that this request was deferred by Council in November 2022) – EDAC Motion #2021.11.04; and

THAT EDAC recommends to Council to approve the submission of the "Request for Pre-Qualifications (RFPQ) of Gardening Services – EDAC Motion # 2022.01.07

Background:

I have asked Jeff Lederer to prepare the Chair Report for January 2022 as I am away and unavailable.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) has started the new year with the election of Chair (Paul Dufault) and Vice Chair (Janet Lett) for 2022. EDAC is moving strategically forward participating and supporting several economic and marketing initiatives with Council and Township Administration. For January's meeting, EDAC reviewed projects that are currently underway such as the Senior Housing Complex, Silver Tops Renovations, EZ Outdoor Ice Rink, Plaza Redevelopment, and Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail.

EDAC also looks forward to participating more formally with the NWMO community studies. They reviewed our actions lists for 2021 to ensure that we progress in an efficient and effective manner. EDAC reviewed the site plan control bylaw that was recently passed by Council that not only

complements property standards bylaw for Ignace but aligns to our beautification goals for the highway corridor. They have also revised the final concepts for the "Welcome to Ignace" billboards prepared and revised by Township Administration for Council consideration as the initial concept was tabled at the November 15th, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council with Motion #2021.11.15.254. These billboards will be placed east and west of town along the highway corridor. We further understand that the cost associated with the development and installation will be covered under the NWMO-Township Multi-Year Agreement. Finally, we have completed the final draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for gardening services that we seek approval from the Township. This RFP will be essential to support an entrepreneurial business in Ignace.

A copy of the final draft billboard concept and RFP for Landscaping Services are attached that both require a Council Resolution. In addition, the approved EDAC minutes for November 2021 are also attached for your review.

In February, we look forward in reviewing the Draft Ignace Capacity Study as well as the draft budget for EDAC.

Welcome to IGNACE

Explore Our Possibilities

HOME OF THE
WHITE OTTER



We value your friendship!

"A New Day" - West Beach, Kimberly Richards, 2021



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Request for Pre-Qualification for Gardening Services

Summary

The Corporation of the Township of Ignace is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide gardening services for the municipality. The contractor will provide early spring to late fall maintenance of all planting beds on the Township's properties. Lawn care will be provided by the Public Works department (mowing, fertilizing, etc.) and is not included in the scope of work. The selected contractor will work with the Public Works Manager to plan and budget for future projects to maintain attractiveness while following relevant Township property maintenance codes and by-laws.

The contract is anticipated to be in place from May 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022 with a possibility of renewal based on performance. Contractors will be expected to work on average 12 to 15 hours per week.

Property Information

- Current planters (57)- See attached Planter Placement Map to this RFP
 - Highway Corridor
 - Senior Stroll
 - Cemetery
 - TAC
 - Entry Rocks (east and west)
 - Municipal Office Parking Lot Island
- Planting beds (to be upgraded)
 - Arena entrance
 - Library parking lot (in front of library and between highway sidewalk and walkway to library)



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Scope of Work and Requirements

- Maintain planters and flower beds (See attached Planter Placement Map), around Town including but not limited to regular weeding, pruning, fertilizing, pest management, weed control and cleanup.
- Plant and maintain hedges around Town
 - Along the entrance of the cemetery
 - Along the fencing of the TAC (eastern fence along the TAC boundary)
 - Library parking lot (in front of library and between highway sidewalk and walkway to library)
- Maintain flowers in hanging baskets along the TAC boardwalk during the summer.
- Plan and propose individual projects to refresh the plant beds on the property. Low- maintenance, native plants are strongly preferred.
- Prepare planters, beds, hanging baskets, plants etc. around the Township for the next planting season. The planting season runs from May 15 to October 15 each year, with the beginning of October signalling the time to start ordering.
- The contractor will be expected to physically pick up flowers and plants from Schmidt's in Dryden as well as store them in time for planting
- End of season clearing and winter preparation for planters, flower beds, hanging baskets, plants etc.
- Propose new or assist current gardening initiatives within the Township.
 - Work with the Community Garden with their summer composting exercises
 - Coordinate with the schools to plant/maintain flower beds
 - Support planning for the Ignace High School 50th anniversary with a floral themed design.

Note: Public Works will have all planters and baskets in place and filled with soil by May 1st.



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Site Tours

Prospective contractors are welcome to tour areas that require gardening services at any time. For a guided tour, please contact Keith Roseborough at projectcoordinator@ignace.ca or 807-747-0141. Tours will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm CST.

Proposal Requirements

Candidates must have:

- All equipment and supplies necessary to complete the work
- Valid provincial drivers' license and liability car insurance (\$2M)
- Access to personal transportation (car maintenance, mileage to be covered by contractor)
- Proof of Workers Insurance

Submissions that do not include each of the six requirements listed below will not be considered:

1. References from at least 3 current or past clients of similar or comparable size.
***Newly established companies (6 months to 1 year) can provide character/work references.*
2. A description of experience or work portfolio
3. An overview of the company, staff qualifications and relevant resources
4. A proposed schedule of regular maintenance
5. An outline of pricing
6. Ability to obtain Workers Insurance

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Qualifications and experience
- References from previous clients (will be an asset)
- Cost



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Disclaimer

This Request for Pre-Qualification (RFPQ) is not an offer to purchase. The RFPQ is solely a request for expressions of interest and statements of qualifications. It is not an invitation for tenders, an offer to contract, or an invitation for offers capable of acceptance to create a contract. No contractual or other legal obligations or relations between the Corporation of the Township of Ignace and any other person can or will be created hereunder. The Township of Ignace assumes no financial responsibility for the cost of preparation of proposals by respondents nor does it make any commitment to enter into a contract for service based on responses to this RFPQ.

Timeline

Please submit your proposal via email on or before 4:30pm CST on xxx, 2022 to xxxx xxxxxx at projectcoordinator@ignace.ca

Submission Details

- The Corporation of the Township of Ignace issues RFPQ xxx, 2022.
- Property tours (self or guided) xxxx, 2022.
- Deadline for questions xxxx, 2022.
- Deadline for submitting proposals xxxx, 2022 at 4:30 pm CST.
- The Township of Ignace completes RFPQ within two weeks of submission date.



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Corridor:

Location	#	Set	Size	Salvias				Petunias						Marigolds	Ipomea	
				Blue	Red	Red wave	Light red wave	Solid Pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep Purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed >12"	Lime Sweet potato vine	
TAC	1	Single	Med					2							3	
17/ West	2	Single	Large		3							2	1			1
Plaza blvd	3	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					1			3	1
	4	Single	Med									2			3	
	5	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					1			3	1
	6	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					1			3	1
	7	Single	Med									2			3	
	8	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					3			3	1
Plane	9	Single	Med									2			3	
Bay store	10	Single	Med					2							3	
Credit Union	11	Single	Med					2							3	
LCBO	12	Single	Large		3							2	1			1
Traffic Isl	13	Single	Large		3							2	1			1
17/East	14	Single	Med					2							3	
17/Pine	15	Single	Med					2							3	
			Totals	12	9	8	8	10	0	0		18	3	0	36	7



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Senior Stroll

Location	#	Set	Size	Salvias		Petunias								Marigolds	Ipomea	
				Blue	Red	Red wave	Light red wave	Solid Pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep Purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed >12"	Lime Sweet potato vine	
Post Office	16	single	large	3		2	2									
Beaver/McLeod	17	single	Large		3							2	1			1
East/Trail	18	Single	Med					2							3	
Trail/Pine	19	single	Large	3		2	2									
Church Corner	20	single	Large		3							2	1			1
Pine/Davy L Rd	21	Single	Large	3		2	2									
School	22	Single	Large		3							2	2			1
	23	Single	Med									2			3	
	24	Single	Large		3							2	2			
	25	Single	Med									2			3	
Ball Dmd	26	Single	Med					2							3	
Davy L Rd/West	27	Single	Large		3							2	2			1
West	28	Single	Large	3		2	2									
			Totals	12	15	8	8	4				14	8		12	4

Cemetery

Location	#	Set	Size	Salvias		Petunias								Marigolds	Ipomeas	
				Blue	Red	Red wave	Light red wave	Solid Pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep Purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed >12"	Lime Sweet potato vine	
Cemetery	29	Single	Med						2	1						
	30	Single	Med						2	1						
			Totals						4	2						



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TAC

Location	#	Set	Size	Salvias		Petunias								Marigolds	Ipomeas	
				Blue	Red	Deep red wave	Light red wave	Solid pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed ≥12"	Lime sweet potato vine	
Hwy 17	31	Set x 3	Large Med Small	2		2	2					1	1			1
Flagpoles-patriotic	32	Single	Large Med Med		2 2 2	2 1 1				2 1 1						
Under tree	33	Set x 3	Large Med Small		2	2	2 1		1							
Walkway	34	Single	Large Med Med	2							2	2 1 1	1 1			
Totals				4	8	8	5	1	1	4	3	4	2			1

Entry Rocks (east & west):

Location	#	Set	Size	Salvias		Petunias								Marigolds	Ipomeas	
				Blue	Red	Deep red wave	Light red wave	Solid pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed ≥12"	Lime sweet potato vine	
Tower Hill	35	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					1			3	1
West	36	Set x 3	Large Med Small	3		2	2					1			3	1
Totals				6		4	4				2				6	2



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Totals:

Location	Salvias		Petunias										Marigolds	Ipomeas
	Blue	Red	Deep red wave	Light red wave	Solid pink wave	Deep coral wave	White wave	Deep purple wave	Light purple wave	Lavender blue wave	Mixed >12"	Lime sweet potato vine		
Corridor	Totals	12	9	8	8	10			18	3		36	7	
Senior's Stroll	Totals	12	15	8	8	4			14	8		12	4	
Cemetery	Totals						4	2						
TAC	Totals	4	8	8	5	1	1	4	3	4	2		1	
Entry Rocks	Totals	6		4	4				2			6	2	
	Grand totals	34	32	28	25	15	5	6	37	15	2	54	14	



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Salvias



Petunias



Marigolds



Ipomeas

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EDAC) MINUTES

Thursday, November 25th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

In-person Meeting at Signal Weather/Gallery Blooms

PRESENT:

MEMBERSHIP	TOWNSHIP
Paul Dufault – Chair	
Gerald Gannon	
Bill Laidlaw	
Elizabeth Russell	
Jade St. Amand	
Chantelle Tucker – Deputy Mayor	
Jody Waldock – Recreation Committee Representative	

REGRETS:

MEMBERSHIP	TOWNSHIP
Janet Lett – Vice Chair	Jeff Lederer – Planning, Development, and Engagement Services
	Leisel Edwards – Project Manager
	Keith Roseborough – Economic Development Coordinator
	Lynda Colby - Clerk

1. Chair Paul Dufault called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.
2. Motion # 2021.11.01
Moved by Bill Laidlaw, seconded by Jade St. Amand that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion #2021.11.02
Moved by Liz Russell, seconded by Jade St. Amand that the minutes of the October 27th meeting be approved. No minutes were available.
Motion defeated.
4. Discussions:
 - a. Reading Indigenous Acknowledgement before each meeting:
After discussion, it was decided that the Chair would send a letter asking Council to rule on reading the Indigenous Acknowledgement for all Township committees.

b. Signage:

During discussion, members voiced deep disappointment and frustration with the way in which our October 27th motion about signage within the town limits was presented to Council. It was decided to send the motion back to Council in its original form for proper consideration.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

There was none due to the unavailability of the minutes of the October 27th meeting.

6. Old Business:

There were no items of old business.

7. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

8. New Business:

a. Future direction of EDAC:

During extensive discussion, members voiced their deep disappointment and frustration that very little of our work gets to Council. The question was asked, "How can we correct the disconnect between committees and what Council receives?"

Suggestions:

1. That we as a whole Committee meet with Council in closed session to voice our concerns.
2. That we include other committees who are experiencing the same issues in such a meeting.

No decision was made.

b. Motion # 2021.11.03

Moved by Gerald Gannon, seconded by Bill Laidlaw

THAT, The EDAC strongly encourages the Municipal Council to develop a strategic plan which will address the urgent need to implement the FireSmart Program in a timely fashion.

Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

c. Motion # 2021.11.04

Moved by Gerald Gannon, seconded by Jade St. Amand

THAT, The EDAC strongly encourages the Township to recognize the problems associated to mankind because of "Climate Change." Council could in this respect develop a "Solar Energy Plan" that would envision solar panel installation on our public buildings. (Arena, Tourist Information Centre, Town garage, Water Treatment plant)

Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

9. Township Updates:

There were no updates available.

10. The next meeting will be on December 15, 2021, in the Multi-Purpose Room.

11. Motion #2021.11.05

Moved by Gerald Gannon, seconded by Liz Russell that the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Carried.



Staff Report

Planning, Development, and Engagement Services

TO: Mayor and Council, Township of Ignace
FROM: Jeff Lederer, Manager of Planning, Development, and Engagement Survey
DATE: February 1, 2022
RE: Workplan and Estimates (Municipal Modernization Program 3 – Implementation Phase)

Recommendation:

THAT on the recommendation of the Manager of Planning, Development, and Engagement Services, the following actions be taken with respect to the application of the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP 3 - Helping Municipalities Bcome More Efficient and Modernize Service Delivery):

- a) Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace accept the grant funds of **\$106,848.00**; and
- b) Council of the Corporation of the Township Council directs Administration to sign and execute the funding agreement as required under the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement.

Background:

In October 2021, Administration applied for Phase 3 of the Municipal Modernization Program Intake 3. This grant builds upon the previous of MMP grant funds of baseline conditions (MMP1) and Corporate/Communication Review (MMP2).

For the MMP3, there is an expectation from residents for municipalities to deliver services digitally, efficiently, and tailored specifically to user needs. The Township of Ignace wants to use information and communication technology and data/informatics to manage assets, improve services, and enable opportunities through the following components: i) e-commerce; ii) digital citizen participation; and iii) GPS technology.

E-commerce will be introduced to provide residents with more choice with respect to “doing business” with the municipality from paying taxes and utilities and booking programs and services to scheduling events and participating in programs. Internally, enhanced financial and scheduling software will allow staff to process orders more quickly (they will be able to view entire from purchase order request, invoice, and payment) as well as reviewing scheduling and event planning all the while eliminating time and paper waste.

Digital citizen participation will provide users with additional platforms to engage in a range of community issues and topics – providing more outreach and options for engagement will better assist our community programmers in tailoring and addressing needs of the community. Finally, the incorporation of GPS technology will provide efficiencies in managing & monitoring driver activities, optimizing the dispatch of maintenance vehicles, monitoring remote vehicle performance, and reducing fleet and overhead costs.

Cost Savings:

Moving towards a digitized platform will provide costs savings for the Township of Ignace. With a new on-line platform for e-commerce, long wait times, delayed processing payments, and scheduling conflicts can be better avoided because both users and staff are connected via a single source universal platform. Any input and/or processing is done in real-time whereby any issues/challenges are recognized and dealt with immediately.

Residents can access “virtual counter services” to pay fines, taxes/utilities, dog tags, licensing and many other service functions.

It provides a self-service option for residents and businesses that are looking to conduct a transaction or request for service when offices are either open or outside normal operating hours. Staff resources are used efficiently by reducing customer service and administration time. Social media provides a space for dialogue and can provide expanded opportunities for increased citizen participation. Responses from community surveys, opinion pieces, and needs assessment can be collected and tabulated electronically avoiding delays from duplicated and incomplete entries, as well as mistakes often associated with manual data input and calculation. GPS technology will help the Township better manage its fleet operation by monitoring unnecessary wear and tear on vehicles, reducing the need for expensive repairs through regular fleet maintenance schedules, and monitoring key performance metrics. As a result, it is estimated that annual cost savings of \$210,000 will be realized.

Workplan:

It is anticipated that this project will commence in February 2022 and be completed by October 2022.

- **February-March 2022:** Acquire quotes from service providers of new server equipment and software
- **April 2022:** Comparative Analysis of various proposals (software and equipment)
- **May-July 2022:** Installation of equipment and software; development of new webpages
- **August-September 2022:** testing and troubleshooting of equipment and software
- **October 2022:** implement final report.

Financial Impacts:

The total cost estimated is **\$133,560.00**. The MMP 3 total grant applied is **\$106,848.00** represent 75% of required funds (see attached). The remaining amount (25%) of **\$26,712** has been already secured under by NWMO Multi-Year funding agreement that will be leverage accordingly to this grant program. There will be no cost to the local taxpayers because of this proposed work, new/additional equipment, and upgraded software and programming.

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2021-5311

January 25, 2022

Your Worship
Mayor Penny Lucas
Township of Ignace

Dear Mayor Lucas:

Thank you for your application to the third intake of the **Municipal Modernization Program** and for your commitment to delivering modern, efficient services that are financially sustainable.

Under the implementation project stream, I am pleased to inform you that the Ford government will provide funding of up to \$106,848 towards:

- Township of Ignace Service and Program Delivery Modernization

The provincial funding is for up to 75% of total eligible costs to implement the project and complete a final report that forecasts annual savings and other efficiency outcomes by February 28, 2023.

In 2019, the Ford government launched the MMP to help small and rural municipalities modernize service delivery and identify new ways to be more efficient and effective. The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak have made this work more important than ever. The projects approved for funding under the third intake of the Municipal Modernization Program will support municipalities' efforts to conduct service delivery reviews to find efficiencies or implement a range of projects, including developing online systems to improve the local process for approving residential and industrial developments to bring housing and employment-related development on stream faster, or setting up new shared services with neighbouring municipalities.

I understand how important this work will be to your community. To help you get started, an interim payment will be issued following execution of a transfer payment agreement. Ministry staff will forward instructions and a transfer payment agreement for each approved project in the coming days and will work with you to have it finalized. If you have questions, please contact your municipal advisor, or email municipal.programs@ontario.ca.

I would like to offer my congratulations on this funding approval and extend my best wishes as you work to improve service delivery and administrative efficiency in your municipality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Clark
Minister

- c. Lynda Colby, Clerk
- Christine McIntomney, Treasurer
- Jeff Lederer, Manager
- The Honourable Greg Rickford, MPP, Kenora—Rainy River



The Corporation of Township of Ignace
34 Highway 17 West, P.O. Box 248 Ignace, ONTARIO P0T 1T0
Phone: 807-934-2202 Fax: 807-934-2864
Ignace.ca

Prepared By: Leisel Edwards, Project Manager
Report To: Mayor and Council
Subject: NOHFC Funding Application: Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail
Date: 21 February, 2021

PURPOSE

To obtain Council's approval for a funding application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) through the Community Enhancement Program- Enhance Your Community Stream for the development and completion of the Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Stage 1 of the NOHFC funding application process for the Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail project (start date- June 2021; end date- August 2022) has been successfully completed, the Township of Ignace is now submitting a Stage 2 application for a conditional contribution of \$240,000.00 (75% of the total eligible project cost of \$320,000).

WHEREAS the Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail falls under the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Near-Term Investments Funding Agreement dated August 24th, 2021- a commitment to the Township of Ignace to provide the municipality with financial assistance with investment activities in the continuance of the APM Site Selection- it is confirmed that the NWMO will contribute \$48,000.00 to the project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the information for the Stage 2 submission to NOHFC for the Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail project as presented; and directs Administration to move forward with a cash contribution of \$32,000.00 (10% of the eligible and ineligible project costs) along with the coverage of any project cost overruns.

BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS

The Township of Ignace is a rural community with less than 1300 people. According to Statistics Canada's 2016 Census Report, Ignace has an aging population, where 36% of its residents are between the ages of 45 to 64, while 23% are above the age of 65.

Although other communities within the region display similar trends (highlighted in The Township of Ignace Community Capacity Study, 2021) Ignace has a slightly older population and will continue to see its senior's population grow along with new residents and their families as they settle into the area. This growth will require new planning and development priorities, where community services, programming and infrastructure are inclusive, accessible, interconnected, and safe for all Ignace residents.

Added to this, Ignace is a community that values everyone and it is our desire that our residents - as they age – are able to remain at "home" as long as possible, and even if not in their own homes, at least in their community. We are confident that these goals can be achieved through our outdoor spaces and public buildings and thus it is our intent to design age-friendly infrastructure that will promote and enhance adaptability, cultural awareness, healthy lifestyles, quality of life, mobility, safety and independence.

Moreover, Ignace is characteristically dispersed in built form due to its physical geography; challenges to maintain infrastructure in the harsh northern Ontario climate; limited health care options and lack of public transportation. These factors contribute to social isolation that manifests itself in reduced participation and community involvement by residents, especially seniors in town. The Township of Ignace, is therefore working collaboratively with Silver Tops Senior Centre to promote and implement a mandate of age-friendliness so that it becomes part of the everyday experience of our residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A Stage 1 application to the NOHFC's Community Enhancement Program has already been submitted to acquire funding for the development of the Seniors Walk/Urban Art Trail for the amount of \$320,000 (75% of the total eligible project cost of \$160,000.00) along with any unforeseen cost overrun. NWMO has also committed to contribute \$320,000.00 to the project as part of the Near-Term Investments funding agreement.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION/ALIGNMENT

- Administration is of the firm belief that while the initial project will primarily focus on addressing the needs of our seniors through measures of safety and accessibility, it will also be available to all ages and include interactive art installations by local artists that showcase the community's history.
- The Seniors Walk and Urban Art Trail will provide Ignace residents and visitors/tourists alike with safe, creative, multi-use pathways that will encourage and promote social inclusion/interaction and increased social capital opportunities.
- This pathway will be a catalyst to integrating our public facilities, promoting "synergy" to encourage private entrepreneurs and enterprise.



Township of Ignace
34 Highway 17 West, P.O. Box 248 Ignace, ONTARIO P0T 1T0
Phone: 807-934-2202 Fax: 807-934-2864
ignace.ca

Prepared By: Penny Lucas, Mayor
Report To: Council
Subject: Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference
January 23 & 25, 2022 - Virtual
Date: February 2022

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference opened on Sunday, Jan. 23rd for registration. On the 24th and 25th as Vice-Chair, I was in attendance as we made presentations to various ministries regarding rural Ontario issues (briefs included in Council package). These briefs were well received by the various Ministers and/or their Parliamentary Assistants, but I felt that they were most appreciative of the joint presentation to the joint ministry session at the end of the conference.

This presentation: **Mental Health, Addictions, and Homelessness Crisis in the North**, was a joint effort by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Northern Ontario Municipal Association and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (FONOM, NOMA and NOSDA). The presentation is included in the Council package along with a copy of the joint press release.

It is my pleasure to represent the community and the issues of the North on your behalf to the ministers of the Ontario government. Now, the real work begins by continuing with follow-ups to various departments to start planning to actually implement changes for the betterment of our communities.



NOSDA

Prepared for the Ministry of Education

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education**

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

January __, 2022, at pm

Virtual

Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair

Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair

Mark King, Vice Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

nosda@nosda.net

(705) 665-2944

Briefing Notes: Ministry of Education

1. Support for National Child Care Plan

Issue:

There have been several unsuccessful attempts by federal governments to create a national child care plan over the last 40 years resulting in an inconsistent patchwork of early learning and child care programs across the country.

In recent years, the Ontario government has reduced funding for the expansion of child care, in addition to reversing some plans made by the previous government that were to address the creation of new child care spaces as well as recruitment and retention issues within the sector.

Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how essential early learning and child care services are for families, communities, and employers, and the precariousness of the current system in Ontario without sufficient and stable government funding.

On April 19, 2021, the federal government tabled its 2021 budget, which included a national child care plan promising to address training, quality, accessibility, and affordability although full details have yet to be released. The plan has an aggressive timeline and to be successful requires the provinces and territories to enter into bilateral agreements with the federal government.

Request:

- **NOSDA advise the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education of its support for a National Child Care Plan and NOSDA will work with the province in developing a responsive, affordable, and high-quality early learning and child care system that recognizes the value and contribution of early years professionals.**



2. Child Care Funding Formula

The Ministry of Education is currently engaged in the process of updating the provincial funding formula for Child Care and EarlyON programs. As you can well imagine this process concerns NOSDA members as with any change in a funding formula, we want to ensure that the Northern Ontario not only gets its fair share but the realities of the norths vast geography is not forgotten in the development of any funding formula.

Historically when provincial ministries adjust funding formula, the North does not fare well as Statistic Canada data is often used as a basis for the funding formula.

There are 444 municipalities in Ontario and 189 or 43% have populations under 5,000. In Northern Ontario there are 144 municipalities and 126 or 88% have populations under 5,000. Often Statistic Canada data eliminates populations under 5,000 as they data is unreliable and statistically irrelevant. Obviously, that creates great concern for the North as provincial ministries use Statistics Canada as the basis for their funding formula.

Request:

NOSDA members want to work with the Minister of Education to ensure that any new funding formula developed by the Ministry recognizes the uniqueness of the North and the vast geography NOSDA members deliver services in. It is NOSDA's belief that the new funding formula is the Ministry's opportunity to ensure there will be equality of opportunity for all parents; no matter where they live in Ontario.



Support for National Child Care Plan

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-10
Moved By: **Andrew Hallikas**

Date: June 22, 2021
Seconded By: **Brian Bigger**

WHEREAS the Federal Government announced a commitment to invest up to \$30B into the development of a national early learning and child care strategy over the next five years in its 2021 budget tabled on April 19, 2021, and to provide permanent ongoing funding of \$8.3B annually by 2025-26; and

WHEREAS new federal investments will reduce fees in regulated child care by 50% on average by 2022; and

WHEREAS federal funding will enable an average of \$10 per day child care by 2026 everywhere in Canada outside of Quebec; and

WHEREAS federal funding will support additional spaces for before-and-after school care for families; and

WHEREAS federal funding will create new enhancements for Indigenous early learning and child care programs; and

WHEREAS the Federal budget announcement offers an unprecedented investment to make early learning and child care more affordable and accessible for families across the country; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how essential child care is for families, communities, and employers, and how precarious the current early learning and child care system in Ontario is without sufficient and stable government funding; and

WHEREAS territories and provinces must enter into bilateral agreements with the Federal government agreeing to targets on areas such as affordability, quality of care, and training of early childhood educators in order to access the new funding as outlined in the federal budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA advise the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education of its support for a National Child Care Plan and NOSDA will work with the Province in developing a responsive, affordable, and high quality early learning and child care system that recognizes the value and contribution of early years professionals.





Prepared for the Ministry of Long-Term Care

The Honourable Paul Calandra

Minister Long-Term Care

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

January 24, 2022, at 2:00 pm

Virtual

Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair

Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair

Mark King, Vice Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

nosda@nosda.net

(705) 665-2944

Briefing Notes: Ministry of Long-Term Care

1. Community Paramedicine Funding

In August 2021, NOSDA met with Minister Elliot and asked that the province provide equitable Community Paramedicine Program funding throughout all of Northern Ontario.

NOSDA would like to congratulate the Minister on the expansion of the Community Paramedicine program to the remaining 22 Paramedic Services and in the North, this included Sault Ste Marie and Kenora DSSAB's.

We want to discuss the temporary nature of this program and understand why the Community Paramedicine program was only funded for a 3-year period. NOSDA knows that Paramedic Services spent significant efforts to hire, train staff and acquire appropriate vehicles and equipment, to implement the Community Paramedicine program.

The Community Paramedicine program helps fill in the gaps to equitable access to health care; especially in Northern Ontario where access to health care for seniors and vulnerable populations is significantly more challenging due to the lack of health infrastructure, transportation and vast distances to services.

Request:

- **We believe that Community Paramedicine should be a permanently funded model.**
- **Community Paramedics should have standalone certification as this impact our day to day 911 operations because Community Paramedics need to maintain their base hospital certification.**



NOSDA Resolutions

1. Community Paramedicine Funding

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-14

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Richard Malette**

Seconded By: **Doug Jelly**

WHEREAS the province provides funding for High Intensity Supports and Community Paramedicine through the Ministry of Health's Ontario Health Teams (formerly the LHINs) to select Paramedic Services; and

WHEREAS the province has recently provided funding for Community Paramedicine for Long Term Care through the Ministry of Long-Term care to only Paramedic Services with existing High Intensity Supports Community Paramedicine programs; and

WHEREAS Community Paramedicine programs contribute greatly to community health and well-being by providing health care assessment and service in individuals homes versus acute care centres.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) requests that the Minister of Health and the Minister of Long-Term Care provide equitable Community Paramedicine Program funding throughout all of Northern Ontario.





**Prepared for the Ministry of Children, Community
and Social Services**

The Honourable Merrilee Fullerton

Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

**January 24, 2022, at 9:30am
Virtual**

Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair

Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair

Mark King, Vice Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

nosda@nosda.net

(705) 665-2944

Briefing Notes: Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

1. Social Assistance Reform

NOSDA members are cautiously optimistic on the provinces vision as it makes some important moves in the right direction and the provinces willingness to co-design the new system with NOSDA members is encouraging.

We are pleased that your Ministry is actively engaging NOSDA members on both the co-design of the new social assistance model and a vision for human services integration. It is truly an unprecedented process.

NOSDA members are devoting a great deal of time and effort to the process, contributing their expertise and knowledge of what works on the ground for people in local communities. Working together we can improve the quality of life for people in the North who need these essential human services.

We do, however, need adequate time to get it right and learn throughout the process about what will work best. There is much at stake with such a significant transformation. It is critical that there be a seamless transition for clients and that they are well served by an integrated systems approach and not experience challenges with navigating through three separate service points (i.e., financial eligibility and benefits, life stabilization, and employment services).

NOSDA members are pleased that the District of Kenora was selected as one of the prototype sites for Social Assistance Reform and we look forward to the implementation in the Fall of 2022.

People should not have to tell their story multiple times to different case workers and bounced around between separate providers of services. It needs to be a primary consideration.



Pursuing human services integration through a whole of government approach is essential to achieving the successful outcomes that we are all seeking for the vulnerable people we serve.

Social Assistance and Health Care transformation need to be interrelated going forward and the Ministry of Health is needed as a fully engaged partner. For life stabilization to be successful, health supports are essential, especially mental health and addictions services.

While not explicitly mentioned in the vision document, we also support ways to decrease and simplify the more than 800 rules governing social assistance financial eligibility to make it easier for people to stabilize their lives and focus on employment, rather than meeting numerous complex requirements for eligibility.

Request:

- NOSDA members call on the province to clearly define Life Stabilization as well as the outcome model framework to define success. Recognize that Life Stabilization activities can be intense, long term, and non-linear
- The new funding needs to recognize the work involved and the supports needed for both clients and staff. The new funding combined with NOSDA member infrastructure is the key to addressing life stabilization, improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities, youth aging out of the care system, women and children fleeing violence and people unable to get off social assistance due to addictions.



Social Services Simplification

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-12

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **George Pirie**

Seconded By: **Bruce Killah**

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has announced its vision for a renewed social assistance system; and

WHEREAS the province has introduced Bill 276, the Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021; and

WHEREAS the vision makes sense to NOSDA and once realized, will provide for more effective people-centred services to improve client outcomes and NOSDA supports AMO's assertion that these changes must be implemented without an increase in municipal program delivery costs and that the changes do not alter the current provincial-municipal cost-sharing arrangements; and

WHEREAS the changes proposed in Bill 276 do not deal with the over 800 rules within the Social Services System that require significant staff time; and

WHEREAS the changes proposed in Bill 276 do not deal with the adequacy of allowances.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA calls on the Premier of Ontario to move forward with the vision for a renewed social assistance system however vision cannot be accomplished unless the province deals with the simplification of the system and the adequacy of allowances; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Premier directs the Minister of Children, Community & Social Services who is responsible for Social Services System to immediately start working on simplification of the Social Services System as they co- design the Vision for Social Assistance Transformation with CMSM/DSSAB's.



Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance Transformation

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-11

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Richard Malette**

Seconded By: **Debbie Ewald**

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has announced its vision for a renewed social assistance system; and

WHEREAS at the core of this transformation are the province has established the following principles:

- prioritizing the outcomes of employment, financial resilience, independence, and well-being
- supporting positive client and staff experiences
- assigning roles to where they make the most sense and improve efficiency
- improving program integrity by leveraging data and technology
- designing in partnership with municipal delivery partners
- building a system that puts people at the centre, with services that work effectively together to support them
- using data, evidence, and the voice of clients to inform design

WHEREAS the vision makes sense to NOSDA and once realized, will provide for more effective people-centred services to improve client outcomes and NOSDA supports AMO's assertion that these changes must be implemented without an increase in municipal program delivery costs and that the changes do not alter the current provincial- municipal cost-sharing arrangements; and

WHEREAS Provincial–municipal collaboration has resulted in a social assistance framework based on helping people achieve stability in their lives. This means a system where caseworkers focus on the building blocks of greater independence and long-term employability, using their time with clients to understand people's needs; and

WHEREAS the Province, Municipalities and the community at large must all work together to create a system that will achieve the goals of life stabilization and better outcomes for those who need help; and



WHEREAS NOSDA members have been recognized as the Municipal Service System Managers for Human Services within the communities they have jurisdiction over; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are recognized as valued partners and key stakeholders by School Boards, Public Health Units, Hospitals, Non-Profit Housing Providers, Local Health Integration Networks, Community Agencies, and municipalities; and

WHEREAS access to financial assistance is not enough, it takes a lot of support in terms of mental health, addictions services, primary care, parenting, family supports, youth programs, affordable housing, and child care, etc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members are cautiously optimistic on the provinces vision as it makes some important moves in the right direction and the provinces willingness to co-design the new system with NOSDA members is encouraging; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members call on the province to clearly define Life Stabilization as well as the outcome model framework in order to define success. Recognize that Life Stabilization activities can be intense, long term, and non-linear; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the new funding needs to recognize the work involved and the supports needed for both clients and staff.





**Prepared for the Ministry of Labour,
Training & Skills Development**

**The Honourable Monte McNaughton
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development**

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

**January 24, 2022, at 11:30am
Virtual**

**Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair
Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair
Mark King, Vice Chair
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
nosda@nosda.net
(705) 665-2944**

Briefing Notes: Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development:

1. Minimum Wage Increase

NOSDA members want to congratulate the Minister and the government on this huge step in raising minimum wage, this will go a long way towards supporting individuals and families as they work to become financially self-sufficient. There is still a long way to reach a minimum living wage, but this is certainly a huge first step.

2. Employment Services Transformation

Issue:

The province is transforming Ontario's employment services to make them more efficient, more streamlined, and outcomes focused.

As part of Employment Services Transformation, a new service delivery model will integrate social assistance employment services, as well as other government employment services, into Employment Ontario. This new system will be more responsive to the needs of job seekers, businesses, and local communities.

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is transforming the employment services system to reduce fragmentation and duplication between provincial employment systems to improve client service, increase accountability and achieve better outcomes for all job seekers and employers.

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is currently in the process of selecting the 15 Service System Managers to create a locally responsive employment services system that delivers sustained employment outcomes for all individuals and businesses, based on their needs. The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has designated 2 geographical regions in the North, being Northeastern Ontario and Northwestern Ontario.



NOSDA members are concerned that the two Northern regions are too large and vast a geographic area for two Service System Managers.

When it comes to the Service System Management of Employment Services, NOSDA is concerned that the current RFQ and RFP process the province is using to select Service System Managers will not provide real outcomes for the North in the long run, we are concerned private companies will bid on the work without truly understanding the realities of Northern Ontario.

NOSDA wants a made in the North solution, created by Northerners, for Northerners not an 80% solution which may work well in southern Ontario where services and infrastructure are available on every street corner.

NOSDA is working with the Northern Colleges to develop a made in the North solution that we can all support and will provide real outcomes for Northerners. We look to the Minister to support our efforts and recognize the selection process for the North needs to be different.

Request:

- NOSDA supports the transformation of the employment services system, but the Ministry needs to engage CMSM/DSSABs as full partners in managing and planning employment services in their communities. We ask that the Ministry re-visit the decision for only 2 regions in North as this may not be practical given the over 800,000 square kilometers that two Service System Managers would need to service effectively.
- NOSDA members want to work with the Ministry to determine the best approach for Service System Management of Employment Services in the North.



Employment Services Transformation

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-13

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Mark King**

Seconded By: **Dan Roveda**

WHEREAS the province is transforming Ontario's employment services to make them more efficient, more streamlined, and outcomes focused; and

WHEREAS As part of Employment Services Transformation, a new service delivery model will integrate social assistance employment services, as well as other government employment services, into Employment Ontario. This new system will be more responsive to the needs of job seekers, businesses, and local communities; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is transforming the employment services system to reduce fragmentation and duplication between provincial employment systems to improve client service, increase accountability and achieve better outcomes for all job seekers and employers; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is currently in the process of selecting the 15 Service System Managers to create a locally responsive employment services system that delivers sustained employment outcomes for all individuals and businesses, based on their needs; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has designated 2 geographical regions in the North, being Northeastern Ontario and Northwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are concerned that the two Northern regions are too large and vast a geographic area for two Service System Managers to appropriately manage; 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; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA call on the Premier of



Ontario to move forward with the transformation of the employment services system and more specifically that the province engage CMSM/DSSABs as full partners in managing and planning employment services in their communities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Honorable Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development work with NOSDA members to determine the best approach for Service System Management of Employment Services in the North.





**Prepared for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing**

**The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

**January 24, 2022, at 2:45 pm
Virtual**

**Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair
Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair
Mark King, Vice Chair
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
nosda@nosda.net
(705) 665-2944**

Briefing notes: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

1. Social Services Relief Fund

Issue:

NOSDA members are concerned about the impacts of the end of the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) in Northern Ontario. The province has provided to funding across Northern Ontario to establish isolation centres, increase shelters for homeless and provided funding to manage any and all aspects of the COVID-19 impacts on communities for the most vulnerable.

Many of the programs and services that have been established went far beyond the needs created by COVID-19 but demonstrated a vast gap in services for the most vulnerable people in Northern Ontario.

NOSDA members do understand that the SSRF was not intended to be permanent ongoing funding, however we are truly concerned that when the SSRF funding ends, the closure of programs and services created under SSRF will leave the most vulnerable in our communities at greater risk.

Request:

NOSDA members want to work with the Minister to determine the best approach to winding down services while still protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

With the rapid increasing number of COVID cases, NOSDA is requesting an additional allocation of SSRF to ensure that many of the programs that NOSDA members have started with SSRF funding do not become temporary social experiments which will not end well for the most vulnerable people in Northern Ontario.



2. Supportive Housing

NOSDA members are concerned about the lack of supportive housing in Northern Ontario and the need for consolidation of multiple Ministries funding supportive housing without appropriate coordination.

There is lack of supportive housing in Northern Ontario and NOSDA members are constantly being pressured by their community members to develop and build supportive housing.

Whether the supportive housing is dedicated to seniors, mental health, addictions, correctional discharge, or services for adults with physical disabilities the CMSM/DSSAB's do believe they have a role to play in providing the needed infrastructure to housing these individuals however with the coordination of services with other service providers we cannot be successful.

Currently there are too many Ministries responsible for the provision of funding to develop and operate supportive housing. There needs to be an all of government approach to the development and funding of any new supportive housing in Northern Ontario.

CMSM/DSSAB's are willing to play their part but we need strong partners provincial and community partners to ensure that the services required within supportive units are available once they are built.

The best example of this is the provision of Community Care services by Ontario Health, where their philosophy is to provide services to the person where they live, which in many ways makes a lot of sense unless you are trying to develop a seniors supportive housing building and the coordination is not there on the ground locally.

Request:

NOSDA members need stable funding to build on opportunities to address the housing crisis for Supportive and Transitional housing for Health, purpose-built housing for the justice system and housing for those that live with physical disabilities.

We find that Ministries like Health, Solicitor General and Social Services are all struggling because they lack the equity, but Service Managers through Municipal Affairs & Housing are not even being considered partners.



Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Funding

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-8

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Debbie Ewald**

Seconded By: **Lucy Kloosterhuis**

WHEREAS NOSDA members are concerned with current allocation method used by the province under the Social Services Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS the funding formula for the Social Services Relief Fund does not appear to be based on evidence and/or statistical data and in the attempt to appear equitable has precluded a strategic response to actual need; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are concerned that the province will look at a new funding allocation for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Home for Good programs which may mirror the Social Services Relief Fund allocations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA call on the province to maintain the current CHPI funding allocations as a minimum threshold and that additional funds be allocated based on a strategic response to demonstrated need.





Prepared for the Ministry of Health

The Honourable Christine Elliott

Minister of Health

ROMA Conference January 24-25, 2022

**January 24, 2022, at 11:10am
Virtual**

Presented By: Michelle Boileau, Chair

Penny Lucas, Vice- Chair

Mark King, Vice Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association

nosda@nosda.net

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Briefing Notes: Ministry of Health

1. Mental Health & Addictions

In addition to long waitlists, Northern Ontario has significant challenges when it comes to accessing mental health and addictions services for our people in our communities.

NOSDA supports over 300 Child Care staff who provide services to over 21,000 licenced child care spaces in over 340 locations across the North and they see the effects of Mental Health and Addictions every day in the children they care for and the parents they support.

NOSDA members employ over 500 Social Services staff who provide financial and employment assistance to over 15,000 families in 37 delivery sites across over 800,000 square kilometres in the North.

NOSDA members employ over 300 Community Housing staff who provide safe and affordable housing to over 17,000 families in the North.

NOSDA members employ over 900 Paramedics who responded to 200,000 medical emergency 911 calls and Paramedics have seen the direct results of the Mental Health and Addictions crisis in the North and in some cases becoming ill themselves trying to cope with what they have seen.

NOSDA members are working hard to successfully deliver foundational services to vulnerable peoples.

NOSDA members do not have the capacity to address mental health or addiction issues facing their clients in Ontario Works, Children's Services, Community Housing or Paramedic Services without the help of community service delivery partners.

NOSDA members deliver services that are integral to the health service continuum and yet those services are limited in their efficacy due to the lack of integration with health service providers.



Request:

NOSDA members recognize the significant commitment this government has made in allocating 3.8 billion dollars over the next 10 years.

NOSDA calls on the province to take an all of government approach to manage and find made in the North solutions to the Mental Health and Addictions Crisis in the North.

NOSDA calls on the Premier to establish a Northern Ontario Joint Partnership table to manage the Mental Health and Addictions Crisis in Northern Ontario.

We want to work with this government to ensure the right resources are put in the right communities to reach people who need the resources where they live.

Above all, we ask that this government recognize municipalities and NOSDA as a partner in our collective efforts to address the growing mental health and addiction challenges. We have been put on the sidelines for too long by the Ministry of Health and our communities are suffering for it.

2. Ontario Health – Municipal Involvement

NOSDA believes that CMSM/DSSABs have a significant roll to play when it comes to Ontario Health as we provide the Paramedic Services, Social Services and Community housing to those same individuals that Ontario Health is providing services to in the North.

This government advocates for an all of government approach and NOSDA members fully support an all government approach and Ontario Health is one agency that requires an all of government approach in order to be successful and make a real difference in the lives of Northerners.

During the current pandemic NOSDA members have demonstrated their ability to support the health care system. NOSDA members were on the frontlines creating additional shelter beds, isolation centres and ensuring the most vulnerable had access to the services they required. In the North,



nearly all supportive housing infrastructure through the pandemic was made possible because of NOSDA members.

The province is moving forward with a Vision for Social Assistance Transformation to create an efficient, effective, and streamlined social services system that focusses on people, providing them with a range of services and supports to respond to their unique needs and address barriers to success so they can move towards employment and independence.

Social assistance caseworkers will become an integral part of the support network that helps people stabilize their lives so they can achieve their full potential and job success.

This means a system where caseworkers focus on the building blocks of greater independence and long-term employability, using their time with clients to provide hands-on support to help people navigate the broader system of community supports and services that could include primary health care, housing, child care, parenting, youth programs, digital access, financial literacy and mental health and addictions services just to name a few.

A significant part of life stabilization is access to appropriate health care that meet people where they are at in their path to recovery.

The Health Care system has Health Care Navigators and soon the Social Services system will have caseworkers to provide hands-on support to help people navigate the broader system of community supports and services.

This is where the two systems need to interconnect to ensure a seamless provision of services that is coordinated and integrated at the local level.

When long term care went into crisis, NOSDA members through their Paramedic Services stepped in. When hospitals were stretched to capacity and could no longer provide mobile COVID-19 testing, Paramedics stepped up and supported the Health Care system.

Ontario Health North needs NOSDA members as much as its hospitals.



Request:

The end goal of Ontario's Recovery & Renewal Vision for Social Assistance Transformation is Human Services Integration.

NOSDA members need a seat at the table to ensure the coordination of services and that there are locally accountable representatives at the table.

NOSDA members call on the Minister of Health to ensure that Ontario Health includes CMSM/DSSAB's as full partners in Ontario Health as they move forward with the transformation of the Health Care system.

3. Non-Urgent Patient Transfers

Ontario's current system of regionalized health care is focused on maximizing diagnostic and interventional service to patients in central hub locations. Such a system design is significantly problematic in Northern Ontario due to population density and tertiary care locations. The regionalized health care model that has been adopted in the province of Ontario has a necessary transportation requirement, one that influences directly on Paramedic Services deployment degradation, and public safety. The vastly rural areas of Northern Ontario, and the significant expanse between tertiary hub hospitals has, in concert with an absence of any relevant non-urgent Medical Transportation System model leads to loss of emergency response capacity.

The vast geography of Northern Ontario presents unique challenges to Medical Transportation System successes in more urban areas of Ontario, areas where volume of work and limited travel distances allow for efficient return on investment. The lack of an efficient less costly non-urgent patient transfer system alternative in Northern Ontario causes essential Paramedic Services to complete such transfers and not be available for emergent call(s) and often to be diverted from their home communities, for lengthy durations, to facilitate the movement of patients who do not require such a level of care.

The static deployment model of Paramedic Services in Northern Ontario, in turn, creates unnecessarily protracted response times for emergencies in Northern Communities.



The non-urgent patient transfer system in Southern Ontario is provincially funded at 100% with Medical Transportation System vendors, something that carries a much lower cost than the use of Paramedic Services. Conversely, Northern Ontario's non-urgent patient transfers are borne at a minimum 50% cost to local taxpayers due to the Paramedic Services funding structure.

The Provincial provision of Medical Transportation System services equitably throughout Northern Ontario would significantly reduce the impact of resource loss, would mitigate negative response times, would limit the impact on costs to municipal taxpayers at an inequitable level from Southern Ontario citizens and would allow emergency health services and health care to operate in a more efficient manner. The current antiquated model for Medical Transportation System activities in Northern Ontario pits municipalities, who must focus on the provision of emergency Paramedic Service provision against hospital and health system partners who are required to refer patients to hub areas facilities for diagnostic care and interventions, something that has a significant transport requirement. The assumption of such Medical Transportation System services as a factor considered when regionalizing health care, and thus funded appropriately would mitigate system challenges that are unique to Northern Ontario.

Request:

- **NOSDA requests the Ministry of Health take the immediate necessary steps to fund Medical Transport Services equitably across Northern Ontario.**
- **The province takes steps to reduce hospital dependencies on Paramedic Services for non-urgent patient transports be established immediately.**



NOSDA Resolutions

1. Mental Health and Addictions

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-07

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Doug Jelly**

Seconded By: **Brian Bigger**

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario region has significant access issues and wait-lists for mental health and addictions services impacting our communities and clients; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members do not have the capacity to address mental health or addiction issues facing their clients in Ontario Works, Community Housing and Paramedic Services without the help of community service delivery partners; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members deliver services that are integral to the health service continuum and yet those services are limited in their efficacy due to the lack of integration with health service providers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Health establish a joint partnership committee with the Ontario Health agency and NOSDA members, recognizing the Service System Manager role of the NOSDA members, to ensure direct funding is secured by the mental health and addictions service providers to provide the necessary supports to NOSDA members as required; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA continue to advocate for mental health and addictions system capacity so that those Mental Health Associations and organizations can and will provide appropriate support to community housing residents that require service.



2. Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance Transformation

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-11

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Richard Malette**

Seconded By: **Debbie Ewald**

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has announced its vision for a renewed social assistance system; and

WHEREAS at the core of this transformation are the province has established the following principles:

- prioritizing the outcomes of employment, financial resilience, independence, and well-being
- supporting positive client and staff experiences
- assigning roles to where they make the most sense and improve efficiency
- improving program integrity by leveraging data and technology
- designing in partnership with municipal delivery partners
- building a system that puts people at the centre, with services that work effectively together to support them
- using data, evidence, and the voice of clients to inform design

WHEREAS the vision makes sense to NOSDA and once realized, will provide for more effective people-centred services to improve client outcomes and NOSDA supports AMO's assertion that these changes must be implemented without an increase in municipal program delivery costs and that the changes do not alter the current provincial-municipal cost-sharing arrangements; and

WHEREAS Provincial–municipal collaboration has resulted in a social assistance framework based on helping people achieve stability in their lives. This means a system where caseworkers focus on the building blocks of greater independence and long-term employability, using their time with clients to understand people's needs; and

WHEREAS the Province, Municipalities and the community at large must all work together to create a system that will achieve the goals of life stabilization and better outcomes for those who need help; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members have been recognized as the Municipal Service System Managers for Human Services within the communities they have jurisdiction over; and

WHEREAS NOSDA members are recognized as valued partners and key stakeholders by School Boards, Public Health Units, Hospitals, Non-Profit Housing Providers, Local Health Integration Networks, Community Agencies, and municipalities; and

WHEREAS access to financial assistance is not enough, it takes a lot of support in terms of mental health, addictions services, primary care, parenting, family supports, youth programs, affordable housing, and child care, etc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members are cautiously optimistic on



the provinces vision as it makes some important moves in the right direction and the provinces willingness to co-design the new system with NOSDA members is encouraging; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA members call on the province to clearly define Life Stabilization as well as the outcome model framework in order to define success. Recognize that Life Stabilization activities can be intense, long term, and non-linear; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the new funding needs to recognize the work involved and the supports needed for both clients and staff.



3. Non-Urgent Patient Transfers

NOSDA Resolution # 2021-16

Date: June 22, 2021

Moved By: **Norm Mann**

Seconded By: **Patricia Hewitt**

WHEREAS the Province has created a Regionalized Health Care System to maximize service to patients in a central location; and

WHEREAS non-urgent transfer patients generally do not require the use of an ambulance, however, in Northern Ontario ambulances are utilized extensively, as alternate, less costly and more efficient Medical transport services have not been developed by Northern hospitals; and

WHEREAS the use of local ambulance resources for non-urgent transfers places communities at risk for delays in response to emergent calls for service, particularly in one ambulance communities; and

WHEREAS in Southern Ontario, non-urgent patient transfers are provincially funded at 100%, through the use of medical transport services, at a much lower cost than utilizing Paramedic Services and eliminating the risk of delay in response to emergent calls; and

WHEREAS in Northern Ontario the cost of non-urgent transfers is borne of at least 50% cost to the local taxpayers and places the citizens at risk of delays in emergent response; and

WHEREAS Ontario health has committed to reduce the use of Paramedic Service for non-urgent patient transfers through funding for Medical Transport Services, change has been limited with inconsistent application of resources and a failure to meet the needs of the municipally funded Paramedic Services and the citizens of Northern Ontario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NOSDA requests the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care take the immediate necessary steps to fund Medical Transport Services equitably across Northern Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT steps to reduce hospital dependencies on Paramedic Services for non-urgent patient transports be established immediately; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health & Long Term Care, Ontario Health - North, AMO, NOMA, FONOM, OAPC, OMA and Northern Ontario Paramedic Service providers.





NOMA, FONOM, and NOSDA met jointly with government at ROMA to discuss the Mental Health, Addictions, and Homelessness Crisis in the North

For release: January 26, 2022

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) jointly discussed the crisis of Homelessness, Mental Health, and the Opioid Crisis with the Provincial Government yesterday at the ROMA Conference. NOMA President Wendy Landry, FONOM President Danny Whalen, and NOSDA Chair Michelle Boileau shared with the six Provincial Ministers, Associate Minister, and two Parliamentary Assistants the experiences in our communities. Danny Whalen commented, **“having the three organizations coming together today with over 20 individuals represented on the call shows just how important this is and the need to address these issues in the North.”**

The three organizations shared with government a research paper written by the Northern Policy Institute titled “Solving the Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions Crisis in the North”. This paper provided 8 recommendations: provide long-term funding for capital repairs on community-housing units, amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990 to define a ‘Northern Service Hub’ and provide additional funding to these hubs, establish a joint taskforce to collect data and intelligence on the underlying and systematic retention issues of healthcare professionals in Northern Ontario, support new and existing ‘Housing First’ programs, support new and existing Indigenous culturally sensitive community-housing facilities, establish a ‘Northern Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence’ to address the unique challenges of service and program delivery in Northern Ontario, contract a third-party operator for interfacility patient transfers to relieve the workload of paramedics, and establish mandated Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams in municipalities throughout Northern Ontario.

President Wendy Landry commented **“it is important to take an all of government approach, to manage and find made in the North solutions to the Mental Health and Addictions Crisis”**. Michelle Boileau commented, “we want to work with this government to ensure the right resources are put in the right communities to reach people who need the resources where they live”, further **“above all, we ask that this government recognize municipalities and NOSDA as a partner in our collective efforts to address the growing mental health and addiction challenges.”**

The three organizations shared personal experiences from their own communities to paint a picture of what the mental health, addicitons, and homelessness crisis looks like and how it is affecting people in every community across Northern Ontario. We are greatly appreciative of all the hard work and funding the government has given to help those in the North get the support they need but much more work is needed to ensure every person is receiving the best level of service regardless of where they live.

FONOM President
Danny Whalen
705-622-2479

NOMA President
Wendy Landry
807- 626-6686

NOSDA Chair
Michelle Boileau
705-465-5026

Executive Summary

Urgent action is required to address the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario. 2021 homeless enumeration data shows that Sault Ste. Marie, and the Districts of Kenora, Nipissing, and Cochrane have larger homeless populations than the five largest municipalities in Ontario. In fact, Thunder Bay and the District of Cochrane have more than double the homeless populations of Ottawa, Hamilton, and Waterloo, respectively. More astonishing is the growing number of people struggling with opioid addiction in Northern Ontario. Extreme spikes in opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits and deaths in most northern Public Health Units shows 2020 to be the most tragic and deadliest year yet of the opioid crisis. The growing number of people struggling with homelessness and addiction in Northern Ontario strongly indicates that there is also a mental health crisis amongst vulnerable populations. This paper also finds that the mental health crisis is not merely restricted to vulnerable populations in the North, but rather that Northern Ontarians in general are experiencing poorer mental health than Ontarians in the rest of the province.

As the homelessness, addiction and mental health crisis worsens in Northern Ontario, it is clear that current services and programs are not adequately meeting the needs of northern communities. As the ones 'on the ground', municipal governments face tremendous pressure from their tax-bases to solve homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues in their community but are restricted by tight budgets. A collaborative approach ought to be taken by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments in order to solve these issues. In particular, there is opportunity for the provincial government to support existing community-led services and programs which align with commitments already made by the provincial government in the 'Roadmap to wellness'. Provincial support for existing services and programs is an 'easy win' for all levels of government against the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis.

This paper identifies eight strategies governments can take to improve the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario. Those strategies are:

1. Provide long-term funding for capital repairs on community-housing units
2. Amend the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990* to define a 'Northern Service Hub' and provide additional funding to these hubs
3. Establish a joint taskforce to collect data and intelligence on the underlying and systematic retention issues of healthcare professionals in Northern Ontario
4. Support new and existing 'Housing First' programs
5. Support new and existing Indigenous culturally sensitive community-housing facilities
6. Establish a 'Northern Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence' to address the unique challenges of service and program delivery in Northern Ontario
7. Contract a third-party operator for interfacility patient transfers to relieve the workload of paramedics
8. Establish mandated Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams (MCIT) in municipalities throughout Northern Ontario

This paper provides evidence that these strategies are highly effective and economically viable ways to reduce the number of people struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues in Northern Ontario.

Solving the Homelessness, Addiction and Mental Health Crisis in the North

Introduction

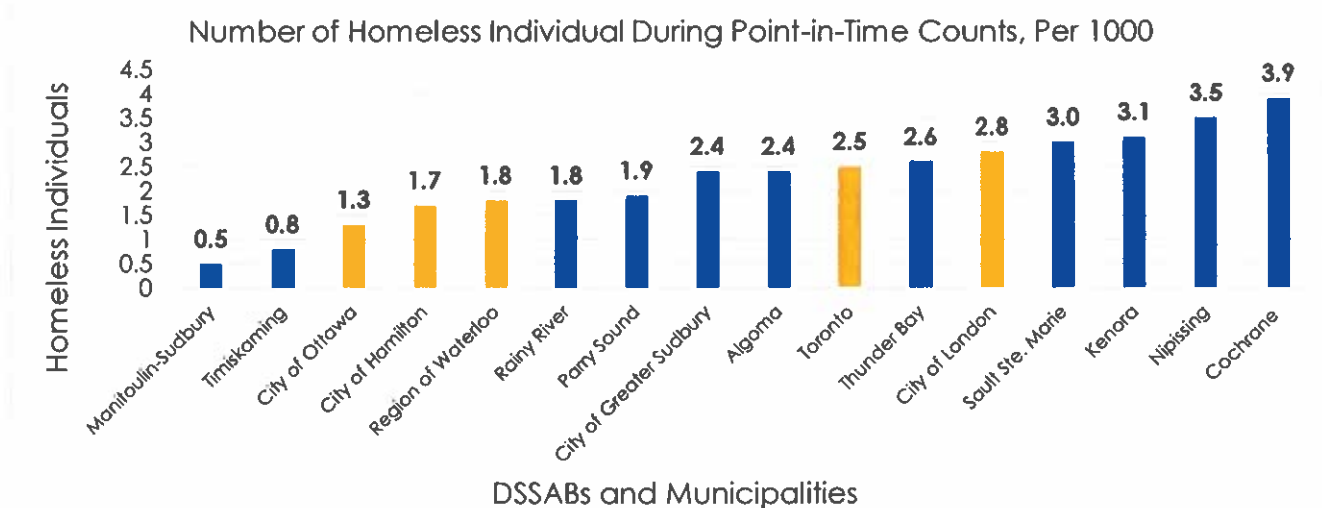
Northern Ontario is experiencing a homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis. While these issues are not new in the North, significant gaps in health services around homelessness, addiction, and mental health have exacerbated the crisis. The growing number of Northerners suffering from homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues have ignited robust discussions at the provincial and municipal level around strategies to address service gaps. In 2019, the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) published three detailed reports on homelessness, addiction, and mental health in Ontario, outlining recommendations for all levels of government. In March 2020, Ontario's provincial government published the *Roadmap to wellness*, introducing a new plan for the mental health and addiction service system (Government of Ontario, 2021c). Not long after, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) published a report calling on provincial and municipal governments to act boldly to address service gaps and vocalized their support for the *Roadmap to wellness* (OBCM, 2021). Later in 2021, Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) and Northern Ontario Service Delivery Association (NOSDA) collaborated with municipal governments to draft a multi-ministry delegation package for mental health, addictions, and housing. This flurry of coordinated activity from municipal actors is indicative of the seriousness of the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in the North.

This commentary seeks to further the coordinated efforts of municipal actors by offering timely data that supports highly effective strategies that governments can take to address this crisis. This commentary will start with an overview of the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis, followed by a brief explanation of the role and responsibilities of provincial and municipal governments. Roles and responsibilities of provincial and municipal governments will be discussed to provide context for the recommended strategies provided in the third section of this commentary.

The Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction Crisis in the North

Section 19.1 of the *Housing Services Act, 2011* requires service managers – or District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) in the North – to conduct detailed enumerations of their homeless populations every two years beginning in 2018. Homeless enumerations offer important insight on the characteristics and needs of homeless populations in specific communities and regions. Figure 1 shows that Sault Ste. Marie and the Districts of Kenora, Nipissing, and Cochrane¹ have higher homeless populations than the five largest municipalities in Ontario. With the largest homeless population in Northern Ontario, the District of Cochrane has more than double the homeless populations in Ottawa, Hamilton and the region of Waterloo.

Figure 1. Homeless Population per 1000 people, 2021²



Source: Author's calculations from 2021 enumeration reports from DSSABs and municipalities, and Statistics Canada census district population projections.

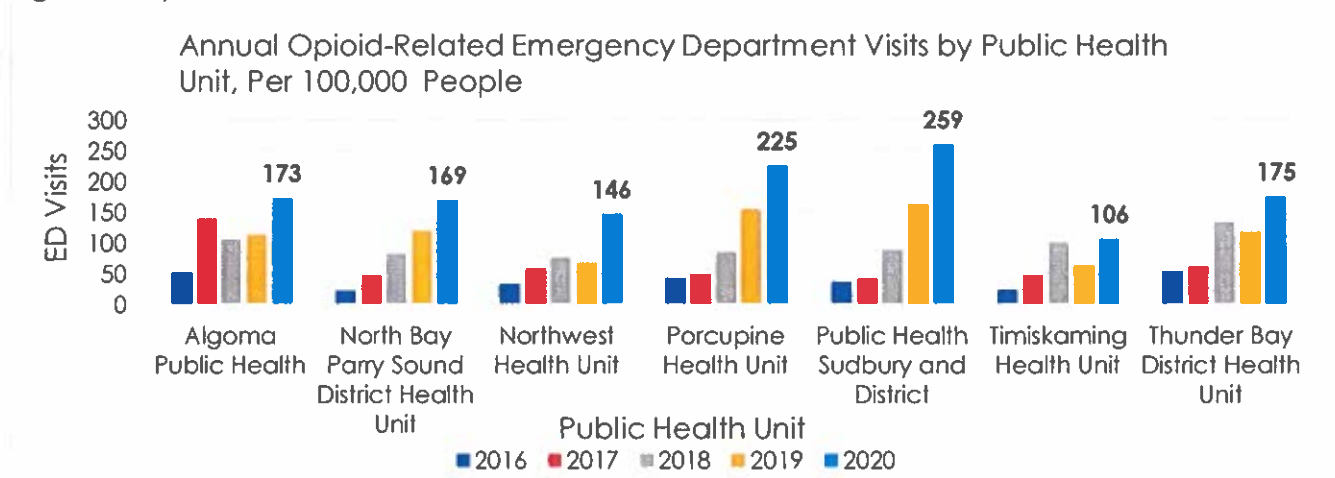
¹Raw homeless enumeration data was provided by DSSABs and the City of Greater Sudbury. This data did not specify the communities in which homeless enumerations were conducted. Thus, it is assumed that homeless enumeration data represents entire DSSAB service areas. Where DSSAB service boundaries align with Census District boundaries – Cochrane, Kenora, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Thunder Bay and Timiskaming – DSSAB service areas will be referred to as 'the District of'. The service area of Sault Ste. Marie DSSAB will be referred to as simply 'Sault Ste. Marie'. The service area of Sudbury-Manitoulin DSSAB will be referred to as simply 'Sudbury-Manitoulin'. The service area of Algoma DSSAB will be referred to 'the District of Algoma', but notably and unlike the Census District of Algoma, this paper excludes the City of Sault Ste. Marie when referring to 'the District of Algoma'. As Greater Sudbury is a single-tier municipality with a Consolidated Municipal Service Manager, it is referred to as simply 'the City of Greater Sudbury'.

² Southern Ontario cities and regions included in Figure 1 were chosen based on available data from 2021 Enumeration Reports at the time of the publication of this paper. 2021 Homeless Enumeration data was unavailable for the district of Thunder Bay.

Moreover, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay DSSABs – the only two DSSABs that completed a point-in-time (PiT) count in a previous year³ – reported an astonishing growth of homeless populations within their service area boundaries. Between 2016 and 2018, Sault Ste. Marie reported a 70 per cent increase in the city's homeless population, with a 58 per cent increase between 2018 and 2021 alone. In the District of Thunder Bay, the homeless population increased by 50 per cent between 2016 and 2018.

There is also a growing number of people struggling with addiction in Northern Ontario. As seen in Figures 2 and 3, 2020 was the most tragic and deadly year of the opioid crisis in the last five years. Between 2016 and 2020, opioid-related ED visits increased by an astonishing 695 per cent in the Porcupine Health Unit; 616 per cent in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; 522 per cent in the Public Health Sudbury and District, and 355 per cent in Thunder Bay District Health Unit (Public Health Ontario, 2021)⁴. At the lower end of the spectrum, all other northern Public Health Units still more than doubled their 2016 amounts in 2020⁵.

Figure 2. Opioid-Related ED Visits, 2016-2020



Source: Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, 2021.

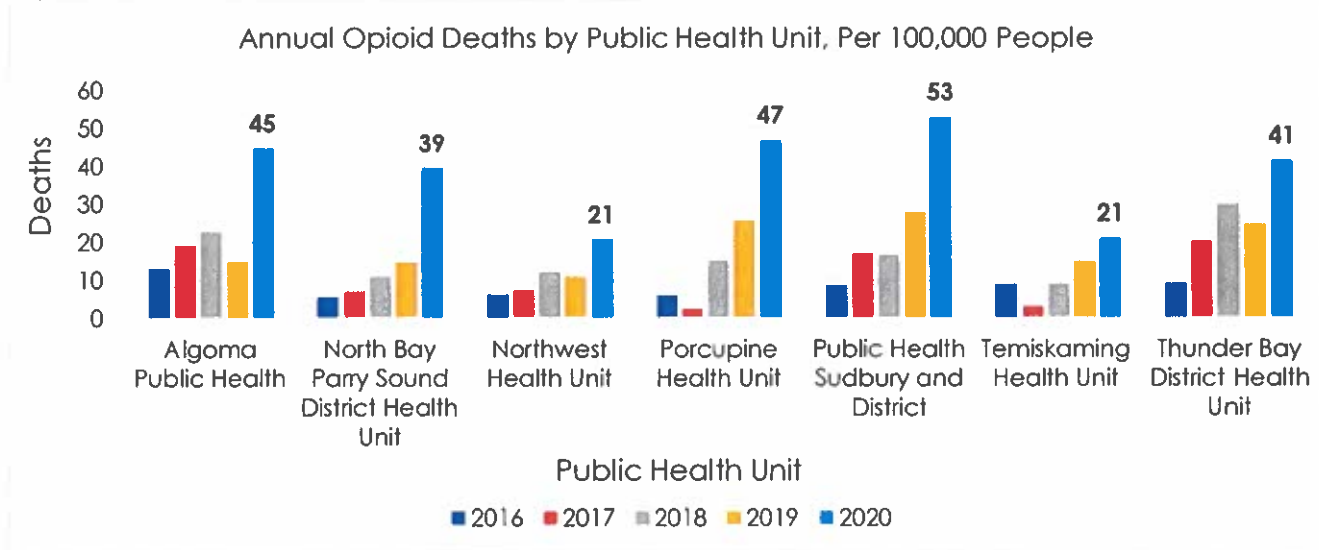
³ Prior to 2020, municipalities could choose from three methods to conduct their homelessness enumerations: a PiT count, a period prevalence count, or a combination of the two. Due to the logistical challenges of conducting homelessness enumerations in large, sparsely populated districts, most DSSABs opted to conduct period prevalence counts or a combination of the two. According to Employment and Social Development Canada, "results from various communities show that period prevalence counts enumerate between 3 and 10 times as many people as point-in-time counts". Therefore, data collected by period prevalence counts in 2018 is inconsistent with data collected by PiT counts in 2021.

⁴ N.B. Public Health Unit have custom service area boundaries that do not align geographically with DSSAB boundaries

⁵ While Renfrew County and District Health Unit partially covers territory in Ontario's central, western and northern regions, it has been omitted from this commentary as the majority of the population within this public health unit is situated on territory outside of the political borders of Northern Ontario as defined by the Province of Ontario.

Corresponding with opioid-related ED visits, opioid-related deaths increased significantly in every northern Public Health Unit between 2015 to 2020. Importantly, Figure 3 shows an extreme spike in opioid-related deaths in 2020 compared to 2019. Opioid-related deaths increased by 200 per cent in Algoma Public Health Unit and 168 per cent in North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit **in a single year.**

Figure 3. Opioid-Related Deaths, 2016-2020

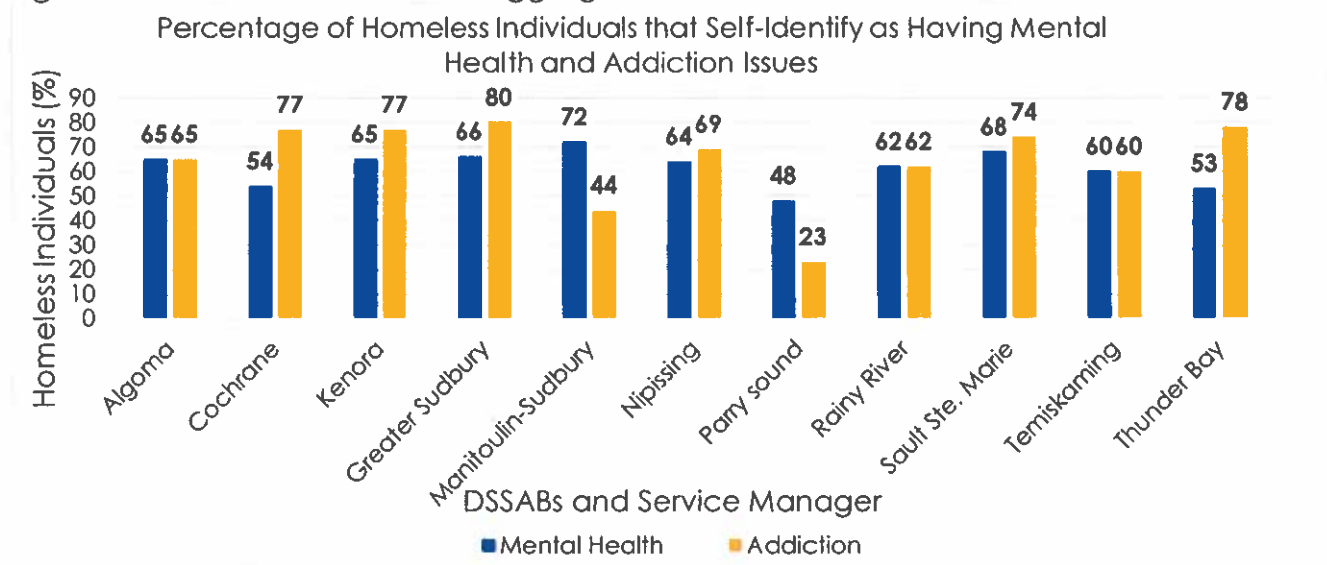


Source: Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, 2021.

The growing number of people struggling with homelessness and addiction in Northern Ontario are strong indicators that there is also an ongoing mental health crisis. While mental health issues do not always lead to homelessness or addiction, or vice-versa, an abundance of research literature from organizations such as the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and the World Health Organization shows homelessness, addiction, and mental health to be interconnected, and part of a larger, multifaceted socio-economic issue. As such, homeless populations are disproportionately affected by mental health and addiction. Figure 4 shows that a staggering 72 per cent of homeless individuals in Manitoulin-Sudbury suffer from mental health issues, followed by 68 per cent in Sault Ste. Marie, and 66 per cent in the City of Greater Sudbury. In the City of Greater Sudbury, 80 per cent of the homeless population suffer from addiction, followed

by 78 per cent in the District of Thunder Bay, and 77 per cent in the Districts of Cochrane and Kenora.

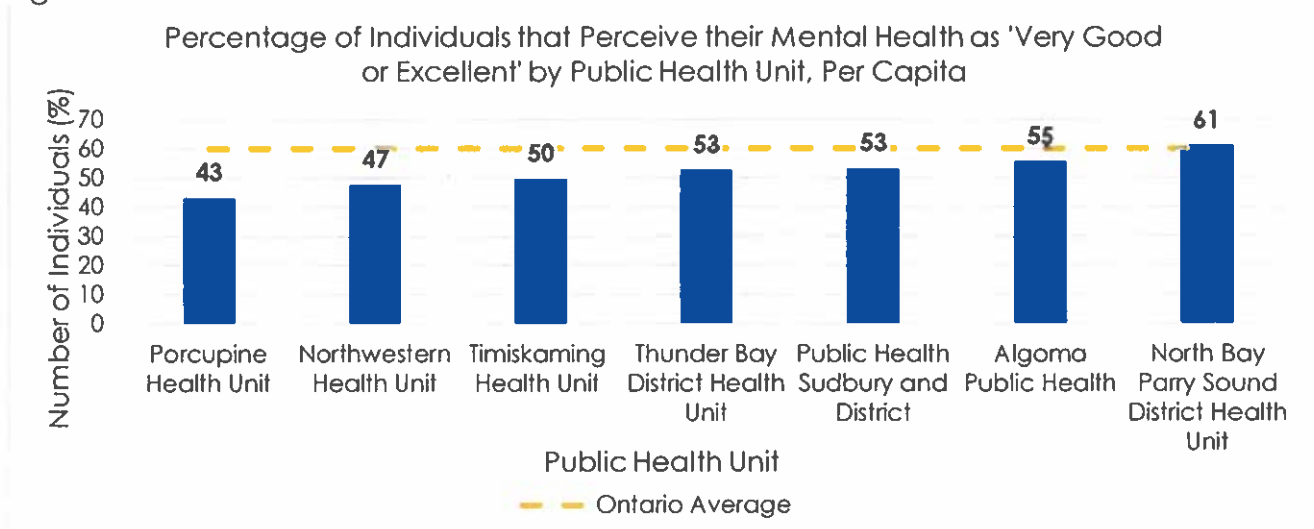
Figure 4. Homeless Individuals Struggling with Mental Health and Addiction Issues, 2021



Source: 2021 enumeration reports from DSSABs and City of Greater Sudbury.

Of course, it must be noted that mental health issues are not merely restricted to homeless individuals, but rather, affect the general population in Northern Ontario. CMHA found that Northern Ontarians self-reported higher rates of depression than the provincial average (CHMA 2009, 2), while Figure 5 shows that the number of Northern Ontarians who perceived their mental health as 'very good or excellent' is below the provincial average, except in North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. This data suggests there is a need from many community members in the North for mental health services and programs.

Figure 5. Perceived Mental Health of Individuals, 2017-2018



Source: Author's calculations from Statistics Canada health characteristics, two-year period estimates, and Census Profiles, Public Health Units, 2016 Census.

The Role and Responsibility of Government

The *Constitution Act, 1867*, as well as federal and provincial legislation and jurisprudence, define the role and responsibilities of all levels of governments regarding homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues. In terms of homelessness, the *Housing Services Act, 2011* states that the role of the provincial government is to provide general oversight and policy direction for "community-based planning and delivery of housing and homelessness services" (Government of Ontario, 2021b). More specifically, the provincial government is required to "assess current and future local housing needs, plan for local housing and homelessness services to address needs, and measure and report on progress" (Government of Ontario, 2021d). Furthermore, Article 92, Section 7 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* assigns the responsibility of public health to provincial governments. As homelessness, addiction and mental health **all** fall within the domain of public health, provincial governments are responsible for "developing and enforcing legislation, regulation, standards, policies and directories" to solve these issues (Public Health Ontario, 2020).

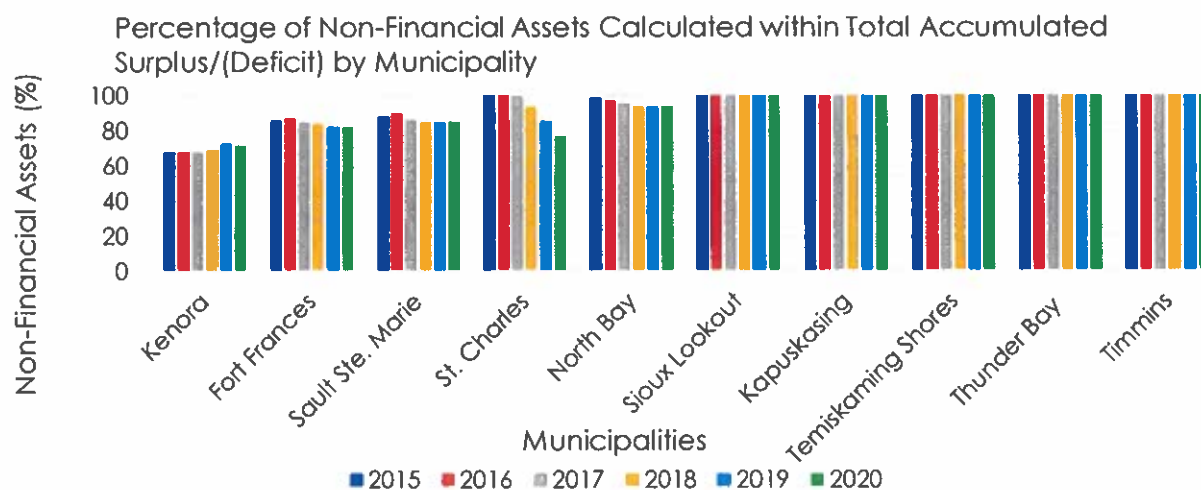
Municipal governments in Ontario play a unique role in community-housing – housing that is owned, operated and subsidized by non-profit organizations, municipal governments or DSSABs for low-income individuals or families (Government of Ontario, 2021a) – compared to the rest of the country. Since community-housing was downloaded from the province in 2001 and 2002, municipal governments act as local planning authorities, administrators of local community housing systems, and funders of housing benefits and rent (Government of Ontario, 2021d). In Northern Ontario, DSSABs – and Consolidated Service Manager in the City of Greater Sudbury – are responsible for the development of housing stock and the delivery of homelessness prevention programs (AMO 2019c, 10). DSSABs must outline their housing strategy in a ten-year housing and homelessness plan, and this plan must include strategies that address the housing needs of communities and that are in-line with provincial priorities (AMO 2019c, 11).

For health care and public health services, the role of municipal governments is as the employer for health services and funding partners to the provincial government (AMO 2019b, 15). Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO, 1990*, provincial and municipal governments are required to cost-share the financial burden of health services, with the provincial government covering 75 per cent of service fees and municipal governments covering the remaining 25 per cent (AMO 2019b, 15). Municipal governments also support Public Health Units by providing a local lens to view policies and services (AMO 2019b, 15).

Despite well-defined roles of governments in Canada, as the ones 'on the ground', municipal governments face extraordinary pressure from their tax-bases to solve homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues in their community. Some municipalities have contributed additional funds to address homelessness, addiction, and mental health, but many more municipalities in Northern Ontario do not have the fiscal capacity to do so. Tight budgets leave little – or nothing – left-over for municipalities to spend on additional services and programs.

Figure 6 shows the percentage of non-financial assets accounted for within municipal budget surpluses. Where the percentage of non-financial or physical assets such as hospitals, schools, and community-housing are equal to 100, the municipality is experiencing a major cash deficit as 100 per cent of their surplus represents their physical assets rather than available cash funds. Importantly, Figure 6 shows that many municipalities in Northern Ontario do not have the available cash – despite budget surpluses on paper – to spend appropriately on homelessness, addiction, and mental health.

Figure 6. Percentage of Non-Financial Assets⁶, 2015-2020



Source: Author's calculations of Net Financial Assets, end of year, total non-financial assets, and total accumulated surplus/(deficit) from municipal Financial Information Returns.

Budget shortfall is part of a complex economic issue for many municipalities in Northern Ontario. Rural and remote municipalities do not have the fiscal capacity to generate large amounts of municipal revenue due to small tax bases, nor do they benefit from the efficiency of scale. Furthermore, important factors such as population totals, population density, diminishing subsidies for rural areas and the number of service providers impact the cost-of-service delivery (Rizzuto 2020, 18).

⁶ Municipalities represented in Figure 6 were chosen as a representative sample size to describe the general fiscal capacity of municipalities in Northern Ontario

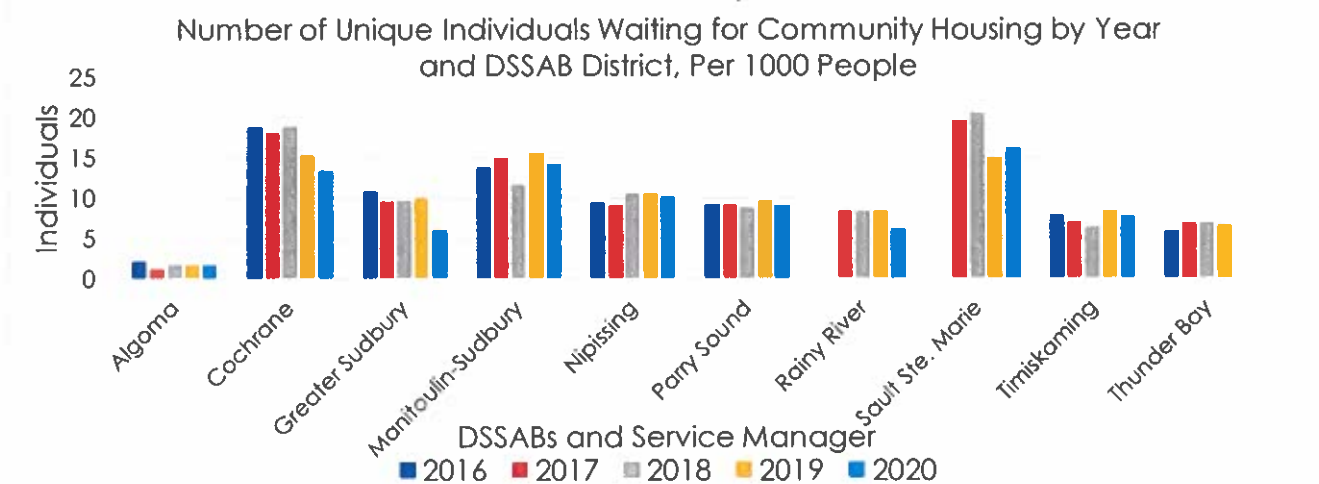
Service Gaps and Policy Strategies

The current – and worsening – homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario indicates that existing policies, services, and programs do **not** meet the needs of northern communities. The following section identifies eight evidence-driven strategies that governments can take to improve the homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario.

1. Community-Housing Waitlists

A shortage of community-housing has contributed to the growth of the homeless population in Northern Ontario (AMO 2019c, 5). Figure 7 shows long and stagnated waitlists for community-housing in the North.

Figure 7. Community-Housing Waitlist⁷, 2016-2020



Source: Author's calculations from direct outreach to DSSABs and the City of Greater Sudbury, and Statistics Canada Census Division Population Projections for the corresponding years.

Much of the community-housing shortage can be attributed to the depletion of existing stock that is between 40 and 60 years old, and overdue for routine maintenance and repair (AMO 2019c, 23). As DSSABs struggle financially to keep up with the growing

⁷ Community-housing waitlist data not available for the District of Kenora.

backlog of capital repairs, much needed community-housing units are left vacant despite the growing demand (AMO 2019c, 24).

The most time-effective and financially responsible way to address the shortage of community-housing in Northern Ontario is by maintaining and repairing the existing housing stock (AMO 2019c, 23). When the province downloaded community-housing to municipalities, however, the transfer was completed without a corresponding transfer of adequate reserve funds for current and projected future capital repairs (AMO 2019c, 24). While DSSABs do not have the fiscal capacity to properly address the backlog of capital repairs, federal and provincial governments *do and should*. Long-term funding for capital repair should be delivered from the federal and provincial governments to DSSABs to address this long-standing problem. Ideally, funding should span over a 10-year period so DSSABs can incorporate their strategy in their 10-year housing and homelessness plans, and provide an update on progress in their 5-year review report (AMO 2019c, 24).

2. Migration to Service Hubs

Service hubs in Northern Ontario face unique challenges in terms of their homeless population: the in-migration of people from surrounding rural and remote communities to access employment, education, and social and health services that do not exist in their community. Removed from their familiar environments and support systems, migrants often find themselves without the financial means to support themselves or return to their communities and, thus, become dependent on emergency shelters and other social services. This in-migration of vulnerable people applies pressure to "the housing stock, the homeless shelters, and the social services as a whole" in service hub communities (KDSB 2014, 8). The Districts of Kenora and Cochrane are particularly impacted by this migration trend as the District of Kenora includes 40 First Nations and a large unincorporated area, while the District of Cochrane includes seven First Nations, three unincorporated areas, and the only railway connection to the James Bay coast. In 2018, Thunder Bay DSSAB reported that 62 per cent of their homeless population within their service boundaries were migrants from surrounding areas (TBDSSAB 2018, 5).

Case Study: Sioux Lookout

Sioux Lookout, also known as "the Hub of the North", is a major service hub in the District of Kenora. Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre, a regional hospital and extended care facility, services the towns of Sioux Lookout, Pickle Lake, Savant Lake and 28 First Nations (Meno Ya Win Health Centre, 2021a). Collectively, Meno Ya Win provides health services for a population of 30,000, dispersed over 385,000 square kilometers (Meno Ya Win Health Centre, 2021b). Meno Ya Win and Sioux Lookout's Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter, both which services roughly the same area and communities, are significantly under-resourced for the population size they serve (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021, 20). Currently, the William "Bill" George Extended Care Unit operates with 20 beds, amounting to one bed per 1,500 people. In 2019, 768 unique individuals slept at the Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter – amounting to 15 per cent of Sioux Lookout's population – for a total of 5,000-person night stays annually (Municipality of Sioux Lookout 2021, 20). If this ratio was true for Toronto, it would mean 439,500 unique individuals stayed at an emergency shelter in one year, compared to the *actual* amount of 3,876 unique individuals (City of Toronto 2018, 7). Of course, it's not accurate to say 15 per cent of Sioux Lookout's population stayed at the emergency shelter, but rather it was mix of migrants from within the District of Kenora and residents of the town.

To ensure service hubs in Northern Ontario have adequate resources for their service area, an amendment could be made by the provincial government to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990*. This amendment should define a 'Northern Service Hub' and mandate the provincial government to provide additional support to these communities through reserve funds or the like.

3. Medical Professionals

According to a report from CMHA, titled 'Rural and Northern Community Issues in Mental Health', Northern Ontarians are disadvantaged by "limited availability and access to primary health care, specialists, hospitals and community services and supports" (CMHA 2009, 3). In 2010, the publication date of this report, CMHA identified 34 northern

communities considered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to be 'an area of high physician need'. As of December 2021, this list has grown to **163** northern communities, encompassing the **entirety** of Northern Ontario (MOHLTC, 2021). The MOHLTC bases this list on a variety of compelling factors including "long-standing challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians, low health care provider-to-population ratios, travel time to reach service providers, and local demand for services" (CHMA 2009, 3). The scarcity of general physicians in the North acts as a major barrier to the establishment of necessary addiction and mental health services, such as medical detox centres and treatment facilities (Turner, 2021). Northerners struggling with addiction are often sent to treatment facilities in Thunder Bay, Winnipeg or Southern Ontario, separating them from their support systems and setting them up to fail (Turner, 2021).

The European Union faces many similar challenges to Northern Ontario and Canada when it comes to the shortage of health care workers. All member-states expressed serious concern around the sustainability and robustness of their health sectors due to demographic shifts, increased demand for services, an aging workforce, and recruitment and retention of health care workers (JAHWF 2016, 2). To enable strategic planning and informed decision making, the EU established the 'Joint Action Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting' (JAHWF). JAHWF is a three-year project mandated to collect intelligence and data of health sectors in the EU by "monitoring timely data, identifying mobility trends, estimating future skills and competencies that health workers will need, encouraging cooperation to find possible solution on expected shortages, and health workforce planning and forecasting on policy decision making" (Nordic Council of Ministries 2014, 36). By conducting research on the most advanced planning methodologies, JAHWF has enabled two pilot-programs in Italy and Portugal, and a feasibility study in Germany (Health Workforce EU, 2021). The Canadian Federation of Nurses Union have called on the federal government to lead a similar taskforce in Canada to investigate "new staffing models and other pilot projects", and address underlying and systematic retention issues (Yun, 2021).

Additionally, there is opportunity for government and others to support the work of the Northern Ontario School and their work around physician recruitment in Northern Ontario. The Physician Workforce Strategy has the goal of "linking human health resources to Northern Ontario's needs" (NOSM, n.d.). According to data collected in June 2021, 325 physicians are in demand across Northern Ontario – particularly for family physicians and rural generalists (NOSM, n.d.).

4. Housing-First Programs

'Housing First' is a multidisciplinary homelessness strategy that prioritizes the rapid placement of the most vulnerable individuals and families into housing with no preconditions (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 18). Since gaining popularity in the 1990s, Housing First is now described as a 'best practice' for ending homelessness in Canada, the United States and around the world (Homelessness Hub, 2021). In 2008, the federal government committed \$110 million to conduct a four-year, five-city research project on Housing First – the world's most extensive study on Housing First programs at that time (Mental Health Commission of Canada 2014, 6). Each of the five cities – Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, and Moncton – focused on specific sub-populations such as individuals struggling with substance abuse in Vancouver and the urban Indigenous population in Winnipeg. Shockingly, the study found that 80 per cent of the 1,000 randomized participants remained housed after one year (Homelessness Hub, 2021). Moreover, a study published by Canadian Homelessness Research Network, the Homeless Hub, and the Government of Canada in 2013 that examined eight Housing First programs in Vancouver, Hamilton, Lethbridge, Victoria, Fredericton, Edmonton, and two in Calgary reported similar findings. The case study in Vancouver found no participants of the program were discharged to the streets within a four-year period (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 67), while the case study in Hamilton found 74 per cent of participants remained housed after six months and 90 per cent of this group remained housed after 12 months (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 80). The case study in Lethbridge revealed 90 per cent of participants remained housed within a 12-month period (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 95), while the case study in Victoria found 73 per cent of participants

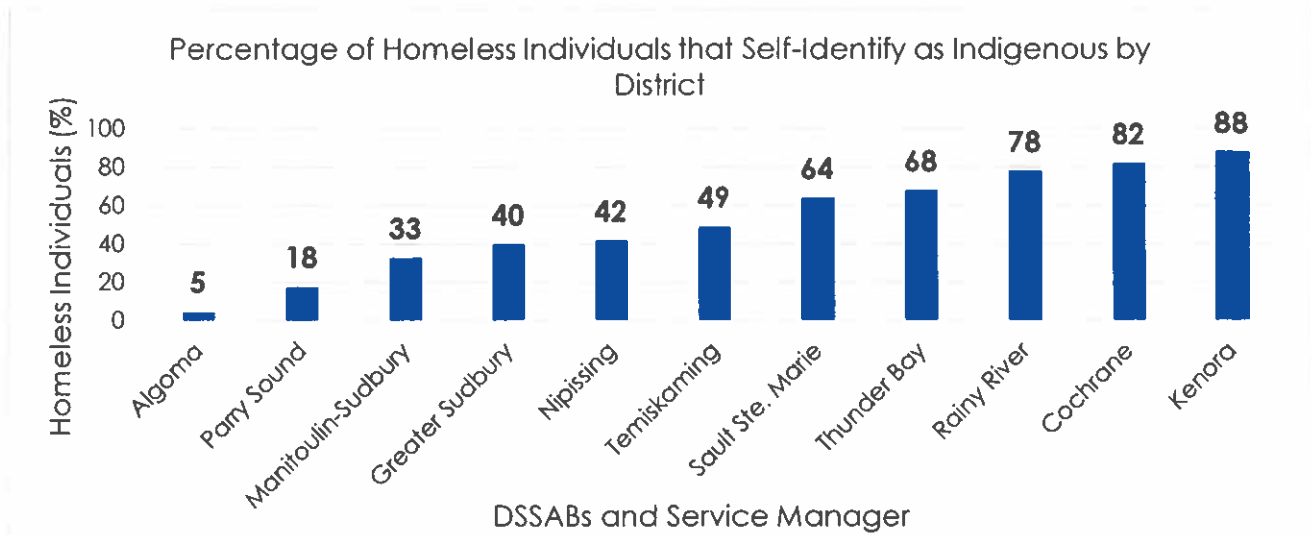
remained housed within a two-year period (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 106). In Fredericton, 93.5 per cent of participants remained housed after 6 months, while 86 per cent of participants remained housed within a 3-year period (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 132). In Calgary, one case study found 92 per cent of participants within a 5-year period remained housed, while the other found 80 per cent of participants remained housed for at least 12 months (Gaetz, Scott and Gulliver 2013, 52).

In October 2020, the federal government launched the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) through Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) to support Housing First programs. The federal government committed \$1 billion in 2020 for 3,000 affordable housing units, with a second round of funding in the 2021-22 federal budget of \$1.5 billion for a minimum of 4,500 affordable housing units. Seven First Nations in Northern Ontario have received \$21 million collectively in funding from the RHI to build 85 new homes, but more communities can be supported. Moreover, RHI funding should support existing Housing First programs in the North, such as Housing Now, a new program established in 2020 by Cochrane DSSAB, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

5. Culturally Sensitive Community-Housing

A significant proportion of the homeless population in Northern Ontario self-identify as Indigenous. Figure 8 shows Indigenous people account for over 60 per cent of the homeless population in four Northern Districts and in Sault Ste. Marie. In the District of Kenora, 88 per cent of the homeless population self-identify as Indigenous, followed by 82 per cent in the District of Cochrane, 78 per cent in the District of Rainy River, 68 per cent in the District of Thunder Bay, and 64 per cent in Sault Ste. Marie. Despite Indigenous people accounting for an overwhelming proportion of the homeless population in the North, there is limited culturally-sensitive services and programs to address their specific needs.

Figure 8. Homeless Individuals that Self-Identify as Indigenous, 2021



Source: 2021 Enumeration Reports from DSSABs and City of Greater Sudbury.

To tackle this problem, Kenora District Service Board (KDSB), Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, North West Local Health Integration Network, Meno Ya Win Health Centre and Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre collaborated to lead a project that opened a 20-unit community-housing facility in Sioux Lookout. The facility offers culturally sensitive and easily accessible programs and services for Indigenous people (KDSB 2018, 21). This facility has reduced 911 calls to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in Sioux Lookout by 90 per cent (Helwig, 2021). A similar project is underway for a new 30-unit facility in the City of Kenora, while discussion between the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board and OAHS have recently begun for another 30-unit facility in Sault Ste. Marie (Helwig, 2021).

These facilities align with the commitments made by the provincial government in the *Roadmap to wellness* to continue to work with Indigenous people and communities to co-developed services and programs that “enable Indigenous clients to access high-quality, culturally appropriate mental health, addictions and well-being services” (Government of Ontario, 2020c). They also align with the goals of the RHI. As such, supporting the existing facilities and the expansion of similar facilities across Northern

Ontario is an 'easy win' for the provincial and federal government in supporting Indigenous people struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues.

6. 'Northern' Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence

In March 2020, the provincial government announced a new action plan to address mental health and addiction in Ontario with a more coordinated approach. The plan, outlined in the *Roadmap to wellness*, introduces the establishment of the 'Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence'. As the "central point of accountability and oversight for mental health and addictions care" in Ontario, the Mental Health and Addiction Centre of Excellence will strive to **standardize** and monitor service delivery, report on performance, and provide support to health professionals (Government of Ontario, 2021c).

Northern Ontario, however, faces unique challenges compared to the rest of the province which must be considered by the provincial government before the establishment of a new standardized and centralized system of care for the province. While the *Roadmap to wellness* addresses many addiction and mental health issues in Northern Ontario, the implementation and delivery of these services must look different in the North for them to be effective. In recognition of the challenges of service delivery due to sparse populations within a large geographical region, there is robust support in Northern Ontario for the establishment of a 'Northern Centre of Excellence for Mental Health and Addiction'. An engagement process conducted by the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research and the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, found that 95 per cent of the 216 participants from within six engagement areas – social services, education, peer, health care, policy and justice – and 65 Indigenous organizations, support the establishment of a 'Northern Centre of Excellence' (Lakehead University 2018, 4). As the *Roadmap to wellness* remains in the development phase, there is an opportunity for the provincial government now to consult with Northern decision makers and reassess the benefits to establishing a 'Northern Centre of Excellence'.

7. Inter-Facility Transportation

The opioid crisis is putting severe strain on municipal paramedic services. In the third quarter of 2021, Superior North EMS answered 187 opioid overdose calls – the highest amount ever recorded in the District of Thunder Bay (Public Health Ontario, 2021a). Similarly, the District of Cochrane is projected to surpass last year's total of 269 emergency medical services calls, with a total of 259 call recorded by the end of October 2021 (Porcupine Health Unit, 2021). To add to their workload, paramedics in Northern Ontario are uniquely required to assist in "non-urgent transfers of low-acuity patients between health facilities", often delaying their response time for emergency calls as resources are extremely limited (AMO 2019a, 6). Inter-facility transfers are a costly expense for municipal governments, and are avoided in other areas of the province through private contracts with private and non-profit operators that are funded by the province (AMO 2019a, 6)

To alleviate the workload of paramedics and solve a long-standing issue in the North, this commentary supports the recommendation made by AMO in their report, 'A Compendium of Municipal Health Activities and Recommendations', to include the provision of a third-party operator for inter-facility patient transfers in Northern Ontario provided and funded by the provincial government. Importantly, this commentary seconds the additional recommendation that only in situations where there is no alternative, should municipal paramedic services be used, and when this occurs, the cost should be reimbursed from the provincial government to municipalities from LHINs (AMO 2019a, 6).

8. Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams (MCIT)

Police officers are ill-equipped to handle an increasing number of service calls involving individuals experiencing mental health crises, resulting in a 'revolving door' phenomenon "where police have frequent contact with the same individuals who are often unable to access long-term, appropriate care" (Semple et al 2021, 3). These calls drain police resources due to their frequency and time-consuming nature as police

officers are typically required to remain in ED with individuals apprehended under the *Mental Health Act* until they have been seen by a physician (Semple et al 2021, 4).

The MCIT model, which pairs an experienced mental health professional with a police officer, has been implemented with tremendous evidence-based success in many cities across Ontario and Canada. MCIT models have proven to relieve pressure on police officers and provide better support to people in crisis. A study conducted on the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) by South Simcoe Police Service (SSPS) in partnership with CMHA and York Support Services Network found the implementation of COAST contributed to fewer apprehensions and significantly more resources provided to people in crisis (Semple et al 2021, 4). Moreover, the study found COAST provided significant economic benefits for SSPS. Reduced call times of patrol officers responding to mental health calls saved \$47.43 **per call** and SSPS also saved on calls where COAST responded compared to patrol officers (Semple 2021, 14). A similar study conducted on the Joint Mobile Crisis Response Team Pilot Project (JMCRT) by Thunder Bay Police Services, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and CMHA also found a reduction in the number of apprehensions and less time spent by officers in ED. Since 2018, JMCRT has been successful in diverting 661 people from ED and 131 from police custody (Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee, 2021).

As part of the \$18.3 million commitment made by the provincial government in 2019 to support Ontario's first responders in the *Roadmap to wellness*, a pilot project for four new mobile mental health and addictions clinics were announced, with one set to open in Northern Ontario on Manitoulin Island. In June 2021, OBCM called on the federal government to establish "a consistent program to be mandated province-wide with the necessary funding" as a viable solution for solving the mental health crisis that has been "tried and tested" with success – a position supported by this paper (OBCM, 2021). Federal, provincial and municipal governments should work collaborative to introduce MCIT in communities across Northern Ontario.

Conclusion

It is clear that current efforts made by governments are not enough to address the worsening homelessness, addiction, and mental health crisis in Northern Ontario. Thus, all levels of government must commit to new strategies for Northern Ontario. The strategies identified in this paper have been proven to be successful in reducing homeless populations and those struggling with addiction and mental health issues with evidence-based data. This data also shows the economic benefits of the suggested strategies. Importantly, the eight strategies align with commitments already made by the federal and provincial government, and therefore, should be supported whole-heartedly and without reservation.

Appendix A

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Canadian Mental Health Association (CHMA)
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
Crisis Outreach and Support Teams (COAST)
District Social Service Administration Board (DSSAB)
Emergency Department (ED)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipal Association (FONOM)
Joint Action Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting (JAHWF)
Joint Mobile Crisis Response Team Pilot Project (JMCRT)
Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)
Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams (MCIT)
Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)
Northern Ontario Service Delivery Association (NOSDA)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts
Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)
South Simcoe Police Service (SSPS)
Thunder Bay District Social Service Administration Board (TBDSSAB)

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