



Date: December 6, 2012

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

From: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Re: Regional Decision Making

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora express its support for increased regional decision making for Northern Ontario on issues currently under Provincial jurisdiction, including natural resources, energy, infrastructure and land use planning; and further

That Council call on the leaders and candidates for leadership of the three elected Provincial political parties to outline their support or non-support of providing increased regional decision making powers to Northern Ontario; and further

That the Northern Policy Institute be asked to develop a proposal that outlines options and processes that would enable increased regional decision making in Northern Ontario.

Background:

What Municipalities are asking for is not a new level of bureaucracy but rather a transfer of authority to regional government (which could be comprised of elected municipal officials) instead of making decisions at Queen's Park. The City of Toronto has special decision making and taxing power and may have paved the way for consideration of further distribution of power for the North.

This issue has been raised by one candidate within the Liberal Leadership contest and the NOMA board is hoping to add pressure to the other leadership candidates (one of whom will be the Premier come February) and opposition parties to make their views known and to make this part of the next Provincial election campaign. NOMA is asking Council to support a motion and send it to all Liberal leadership candidates as well as Opposition party leaders.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

As per resolution.