



**City of Kenora**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 4, 2015**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**

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**Present:** Mayor David Canfield  
Councillor Mort Goss  
Councillor Rory McMillan  
Councillor Dan Reynard  
Councillor Louis Roussin  
Councillor Sharon Smith  
Councillor Colin Wasacase

**Staff:** Karen Brown, CAO  
Sharen McDowall, Human Resource Manager  
Colleen Neil, Recreation Services Manager  
Charlotte Caron, Property & Planning Manager  
Rick Perchuk, Operations Manager  
Lauren D'Argis, Corporate Services Manager  
Warren Brinkman, Emergency Services Manager  
Tara Rickaby, Planning Administrator  
Heather Lajeunesse, Deputy Clerk

**A. Public Information Notices**

**As required under Notice By-law #144-2007, the public is advised of Council's intention to adopt the following at its August 11, 2015 meeting:-**

- Council intends to amend its 2015 Operating and Capital Budget to approve an additional allocation of \$3,964.95 + HST to be funded through the Museum Annex Reserve for repair of the Museum Annex air conditioning unit
- Council intends to amend its 2015 Operating and Capital Budget to approve an additional allocation of up to \$20,000 to be funded through the Pedestrian Walks Reserve for improvements to the Water Street and Second Street Stairs
- Council intends to amend the Tariff of Fees and Charges By-law, Schedule D, to include the rate schedule from Water and Sewer By-law #168-2004 and increase water and sewer service rates

**B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof**

- 1) On Today's Agenda**
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.**

Councillor McMillan declared an indirect pecuniary interest as it relates to agenda item number 1.6 regarding June 2015 financial statements as it relates to his spouse who is a member of the Police Services Board and this report reflects costs attributed to Police Services.

### **C. Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes**

#### **Resolution #1 - Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by S. Smith & Carried:**

That the following meeting minutes be confirmed as written and ordered filed:-

- Special Committee of the Whole Meeting June 15, 2015
- Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting July 14, 2015
- Special Committee of the Whole Meeting July 21, 2015

### **D. Deputations/Presentations**

#### **Path of the Paddle – Carrie & Jon Nolan**

Path of the Paddle General Manager Carrie Nolan and her husband Jon Nolan were present at Council Chambers to bring greetings and stories of their adventures along the Path of the Paddle. Carrie and Jon have paddled approximately 1000 kilometers so far on the TransCanada Trail from Thunder Bay to Kenora. Today they leave Kenora to paddle the final 159 kilometers of their trip via the Winnipeg River, into Jessica Lake in Manitoba, and ending in the Whiteshell. Carrie shared highlights of the canoe trip which has been two months in duration, consisting of storms, portages, sunsets, loons and picturesque scenery. She added that it has been a privilege for them to be able to take this trip and help others by documenting the route. The Nolan's extended thanks to Mayor and Council for the warm welcome. Mayor Canfield presented the guests with city gifts, thanked them for dropping by, and wished them safe travels for the rest of their trip.

### **E. Reports:**

#### **1. Business Administration**

##### **Councillor R. McMillan – Chair**

##### **1.1 K.D.S.B. Report**

Councillor Roussin had circulated some information prior to the meeting, of which these summarizing documents form part of the minutes. This information was gathered from website links contained in the KDSB material previously circulated with the agenda. The documents are excerpts from Northern Ontario Service Delivers Association's (NOSDA's) Submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Re: Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update and Issues Book. They highlight issues which are currently faced by all of the northern DSABs as well as other issues. Councillor Roussin indicated that DSABs have been working closely with NOSDA to lobby the Provincial and Federal governments to commit to resolving these issues as municipalities have gone as far as they can. These issues are important in conjunction with the upcoming Federal election as they affect municipalities locally. Councillor Roussin added that KDSB has received news of housing and disposal of unused housing units, adding that their second quarter report will be out soon so a better updated will be provided in the near future. Further information will be brought forward for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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## **1.2 2014 Annual Report**

### **Recommendation:**

That Council approve the 2014 City of Kenora Annual Report, including the 2014 audited financial statements for the City; and further

That a copy of this report be made available for public viewing on the City's portal, as well as the front desk at City Hall.

### **Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** A media release was suggested for the release of the annual report.

## **1.3 Financial Management Software Agreement - Diamond**

### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby acknowledges that the Corporate Services Manager entered into an agreement with Diamond Software Inc. on June 15, 2015 under the authority delegated in the Procurement Policy CS-1-1; and further

That three readings be given to a by-law for this purpose.

### **Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** Councillor Roussin expressed concerns about the agreement as there is little reference as to what will happen with the contract if the software provider disbands. Corporate Services Manager Lauren D'Argis will review this with the company and respond to Councillor Roussin.

## **1.4 Kenora Hydro Board Appointment**

### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby appoints Councillor Rory McMillan to the Board of Directors of the Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd., for a term in effect until the 2017 Kenora Hydro Annual General Meeting; and further

That Council hereby appoints Councillor Rory McMillan as shareholder representative for the purposes of any Shareholder's meetings held during the term of his appointment to the Board of Directors for the Kenora Hydro Electric Corporation Ltd.

### **Recommendation Approved.**

## **1.5 2015 Second Quarter Investments Report**

### **Recommendation:**

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby accepts the 2015 Second Quarter Investment Report that includes details of the Kenora Citizens' Prosperity Trust Fund and other City of Kenora Investments.

### **Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** A media release was suggested for this item, to summarize the report for the public.

\*Councillor McMillan turned the meeting over to Councillor Reynard as he declared a pecuniary interest regarding agenda item number 1.6

### **1.6 June 2015 Financial Statements**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby accepts the monthly Financial Statements of the Corporation of the City of Kenora as June 30, 2015.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**\*Councillor McMillan resumed the chair.**

### **1.7 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Application**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council authorizes a funding application to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) for the Keewatin Channel Bridge rehabilitation.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **1.8 PayByPhone Technologies Agreement - Parking**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby acknowledges that the Corporate Services Manager entered into an agreement with PayByPhone Technologies Inc. on July 10, 2015 under the authority delegated in the Procurement Policy CS-1-1; and further

That three readings be given to a by-law for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **1.9 Various Committee Minutes**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby adopts the following Minutes from various City of Kenora Committees:

- April 22 & May 27 – Kenora Public Library Board
- July 7 – Event Centre Committee
- July 15 – Environmental Advisory Committee
- July 15 – Heritage Kenora; and

That Council hereby receives the following Minutes from other various Committees:

- June 16 – Planning Advisory Committee; and further

That these Minutes be circulated and ordered filed.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **1.10 Cost Analysis to Support Water and Sewer Service Charge Increase**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council receives this report and attachment forming the cost analysis of the Water & Sewer Service Charges.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** It was noted that it should be made clear to public that this increase different than the water and sewer rate increases, these are charges for for service calls, of which these rates have not been increased since 2002.

**Deferred Motion from July 21, 2015 Council Meeting:-**

**Water & Sewer Service Charge Increase**

That Council hereby authorizes an increase to the Water and Sewer service rates, effective August 11, 2015; and

That the present rate Schedule "D" to the Water and Sewer By-Law Number 168-2004 be more beneficial to users if incorporated into the General Tariff of Fees and Charges By-Law Schedule "D"-Operations, be accepted; and

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to give three readings to a new Tariff of Fees and Charges By-Law Number at its August 11, 2015 meeting to give effect to these rates outlined in the revised Schedule "D" - Operations; and further

That By-law Number 162-2014 and 105-2015 be hereby repealed.

**Recommendation Approved.**

## **2. Community Services**

**Councillor D. Reynard, Chair**

### **2.1 Events Centre Business Case and Design Work Proposal Award**

**Recommendation:**

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby accepts the recommendation from Staff and the Event Centre Committee to accept the proposal from Stantec + Nelson Architecture Inc. related to the business case and design work for the proposed event centre.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** It was confirmed that the business case will include an analysis of all costs including the proposed operating costs. Council will have the information required to make a decision on whether or not to forward with the proposed event centre.

### **2.2 Museum Annex Air Conditioning Repair – Budget Amendment**

**Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves an additional allocation of \$3,964.95 + HST to be funded through the Museum Annex Reserve for the purchase of parts and repair of the Museum Annex air conditioning unit; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2015 Operating & Capital Budget at its August 11, 2015 meeting to withdraw funds from the Museum Annex Reserve in the amount of \$3,964.95 + HST to offset the cost of this purchase and repair; and further

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That Council give three readings to a by-law to amend the 2015 budget for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **3. Economic Development**

**Councillor M. Goss, Chair**

#### **3.1 Tunnel Island Consulting Contract Agreement – CDF Funding**

**Recommendation:**

That Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Consulting Contract between the Corporation of the City of Kenora and Black Dog Management; and further

That three readings be given to a by-law for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **4. Emergency Services**

**Councillor C. Wasacase, Chair**

#### **4.1 Fire Protection Agreement – Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation**

**Recommendation:**

That Council give three readings to a by-law to renew the Fire Protection Agreement with the a rate of \$12,360.00 per year along with an annual recurring three percent (3%) increase on a forward basis; and further

That the MTO rate of \$410.00 per vehicle for the first hour, and to \$205.00 per vehicle per half hour thereafter be applied; and further

That should the MTO rate change that the invoiceable costs reflect the Provincial changes without having to renegotiate this Fire Protection Agreement with Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk be hereby authorized to execute these agreements on behalf of the City; and further

That By-Law Number 113-2001 be repealed.

**Recommendation Approved.**

#### **4.2 Fire Protection Agreement – Ochiichagwe' Babigo'ining Ojibway Nation**

**Recommendation:**

That Council give three readings to a by-law to renew the Fire Protection Agreement with Ochiichagwe' Babigo'ining Ojibway Nation at a rate of \$12,360.00 per year along with an annual recurring three percent (3%) increase on a forward basis; and further

That the MTO rate of \$410.00 per vehicle for the first hour, and to \$205.00 per vehicle per half hour thereafter be applied; and further

That should the MTO rate change that the invoiceable costs on a forward basis reflect the Provincial MTO rate changes without having to renegotiate this Fire Protection Agreement with Ochiichagwe' Babigo'ining Ojibway Nation; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk be hereby authorized to execute these agreements on behalf of the City; and further

That By-Law Number 46-2003 be repealed.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**4.3 Disaster Response Amending Agreement – Canadian Red Cross Society  
Recommendation:**

That Council hereby authorizes an amendment to bylaw number 50-2015 to include amendments to the agreement for Disaster Response with the Canadian Red Cross Society for the purposes of Registration and Inquiry, Emergency Lodging, Emergency Food, Personal Services and Health Care, and Emergency Clothing; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk be hereby authorized to execute these agreements on behalf of the City; and further

That a separate bylaw for a memorandum of understanding for personal disaster agreement being bylaw number 51-2015 be hereby repealed.

**Recommendation Approved.**

## **5. Operations**

### **Councillor L. Roussin, Chair**

Councillor Roussin introduced a new item to come forward for the August 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting:

#### **Local Authority Services (LAS) LED Streetlight Upgrade Service**

At April's Council meeting it was approved by Council to enter into an agreement with LAS' service partner RealTerm Energy for design and upgrade of LED streetlights. The City has been in contact with RealTerm Energy and they have now completed and audit of the light fixtures, provided costs and explained the details. Operations Manager Rick Perchuk is awaiting the final contract and this will be distributed with a report for Council to review prior to next week's meeting. A budget amendment will also be required. This is housekeeping item as Council has already agreed to proceed with the project.

#### **5.1 School Crossing Guard Service Tender**

##### **Recommendation:**

That the only tender submitted to provide School Crossing Guard Service for the 2015 – 2016 school year and the 2016 – 2017 school year, HST extra, be received:

Alpine Janitorial (Kenora) Inc.

Year 2015 - 2016	\$50,008.00	HST extra
Year 2016 - 2017	\$50,008.00	HST extra

; and further

That the tender received from Alpine Janitorial (Kenora) Inc., in the amount of \$100,016.00, HST extra, be hereby accepted.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**Discussion:** Councillor Reynard questioned whether it is legislated that the City provides this service. It was confirmed it is not legislated and comes to Council each year for review at budget time. It is currently in the budget, and could result in a liability issue if not provided. It was noted that there are a number of other municipalities that provide this service.

**5.2 June 2015 Water Wastewater Monthly Report**

**Recommendation:**

That Council of the City of Kenora hereby accepts the June 2015 Kenora Water and Wastewater Systems Monthly Summary Report, as prepared by Biman Paudel, Water and Sewer Supervisor, Ryan Peterson, Water Treatment Plant Operator and Gord St. Denis, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**6. Property & Planning**  
**Councillor S. Smith, Chair**

**6.1 Site Plan Amendment – Deadhead Developments Inc. (WSL)**

**Recommendation:**

That the Mayor and Clerk of the City of Kenora be hereby authorized to execute Schedule 1 (Drawing A0.1 Rev 6 – July 16, 2015) to an application to amend a Site Plan Agreement between Deadhead Developments Inc.; and further

That the appropriate bylaw be passed for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

**6.2 Deeming of Lots – Plan M39 Lots 209 and 210**

**Recommendation:**

That all the lands contained within the boundaries of Lots 209 and 210, on Registered Plan of Subdivision M39, in the City of Kenora, formerly the Town of Kenora be deemed not to be lands described in accordance with a registered plan of subdivision for the purposes of Section 50(3) of the Planning Act, RSO 1990; and further

That in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, the by-law shall come into force and take effect on the final passing thereof by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kenora and upon registration of this by-law in the Land Titles office for the

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District of Kenora; and further

That the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs associated with such registration; and further

That the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents required to complete this transaction.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **6.3 Water Street & Second Street Stairs – Budget Amendment**

#### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves an additional allocation of up to \$20,000 to be funded through the Pedestrian Walks Reserve for the modification of the stairs between Water St. and Second St. and the purchase of railing; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law Number 144-2007, public notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend its 2015 Operating & Capital Budget at its August 11, 2015 meeting to withdraw funds from the Pedestrian Walks Reserve in the amount of up to \$20,000 to offset the cost of this modification and purchase; and further

That Council give three readings to a by-law for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **6.4 Lease Renewal – Kenora Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic**

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Mayor and Clerk of the City of Kenora enter into a renewal lease agreement with Linda Alvestad and Dan Morwood carrying on business as Kenora Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic within the Kenora Recreation Centre; and further

That the lease agreement as entered into on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 be amended to reflect the terms of rents which have been agreed upon by the parties; and further

That the appropriate bylaw be passed for this purpose.

**Recommendation Approved.**

### **6.5 TBay Tel City Concurrence – 2 Tower Sites**

#### **Recommendation:**

That in accordance with City of Kenora Tower Policy P-P 1-1 Summit Telecom Services, Agent for TBay Tel, has applied to the City for a letter of concurrence for the location of two new cellular towers; and further

That the Government of Canada, through Industry Canada, has exclusive jurisdiction for approval of such sites; and further

That as a result of a statutory comment period and public meeting held per the City of Kenora Tower Policy, with no outstanding objections, the CAO be authorized to execute a letter of concurrence indicating that requirements of the City of Kenora Tower Policy have been met.

**Recommendation Approved.**

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## **6.6 Kenora Public Library Heritage Designation By-law (housekeeping)**

### **F. Other**

- It was noted that this past weekend has been one of the busiest Harbourfest weekends in Kenora ever, specific to traffic and the number of people in the City, including the Monday. Harbourfest has been recently named one of the top 100 festivals in Ontario by Festivals and Events Ontario. It was further noted that retailers had a spectacular weekend, with many more open all weekend compared to in the past. The Discovery Centre had more visitors from the east during the weekend than anticipated.
- August 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> is Lake of the Woods International Sailing Association's (LOWISA) race week with 76 boats participating in their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year
- August 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> is the Kenora Bass International (KBI) fishing tournament
- Alzheimer Society will be hosting their motorcycle Ride for Memories August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Mayor Canfield and Councillor McMillan and City staff attended the 2017 Canada Summer Games media event at the Pan Am Pool in Winnipeg on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Games will be held in Winnipeg July 28<sup>th</sup> -August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and Kenora will host the rowing event at Rabbit Lake.

### **G. Proclamations**

None

### **H. Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, September 8, 2015

### **I. Adjourn to Closed**

#### **Resolution #2 - Moved by D. Reynard, Seconded by M. Goss & Carried:**

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, authorization is hereby given for Committee to move into a Closed Session at 9:55 a.m. to discuss items pertaining to the following:-

- i) **Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual (1 item)**
- ii) **Labour Relations (1 item)**

### **J. Reconvene to Open Meeting**

Council reconvenes to open session at 10:35 a.m. with the following report from its closed session:-

#### **Non Union Salary Grid**

##### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby approves an economic adjustment of 1.7% to the City's Non-Union pay grid effective 1 January 2015

##### **Recommendation Approved.**

## **K. Close Meeting**

**Resolution #3 - Moved by S. Smith, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried:**

That this meeting be adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

**NORTHERN ONTARIO SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION**

**SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS  
AND HOUSING**

**RE: LONG TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY  
UPDATE**

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**JUNE, 2015**

*Submitted to:*

Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 14 Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2E5

## 1. Background

The Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) brings together 10 District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) and 1 Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) who are responsible for the municipal delivery of social services in Northern Ontario. NOSDA members are primarily responsible for the service system management of Social Housing, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Child Care and Ontario Works programs.

We are pleased to provide this feedback on the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Renewal (LTAHS) to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). We endorse the 'quick win' approach and recommendations made in the joint submission made by the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and Housing Services Corporation (HSC) entitled *Building Sustainability in the Housing System - Submission on the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Renewal: Early Wins for Long Term Gains*, March, 2015. This Brief goes on to expound on the Northern perspective on a few specific recommendations made in the OMSSA and HSC paper.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Context

In early 2015, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and its Service Managers Housing Network (SMHN) along with the Housing Services Corporation (HSC) collaborated on offering a number of considerations "to address housing need in their communities and build sustainability in the housing system". NOSDA was represented on that Working Group.

As noted in that report's Introduction, "*the intent of this report is to emphasize actionable areas that can be facilitated both in the short-term and medium-term towards achieving housing affordability, sustaining important public assets and greater community health and well-being.*"

NOSDA applauds this collaborative effort and strongly supports the OMSSA/HSC March, 2015 LTAHS submission and recommendations therein. All these recommendations need to be considered in the context of the inter-related activities and operating environments between municipal, provincial and federal levels of government and the broader economy that we find ourselves in at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> For further background, please see Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. *Consolidated Pan-Northern Housing and Homelessness Report*, November 2014

### 3. Specific Endorsements of the OMSSA/HSC Paper

In addition to the DSSAB specific documents that may be submitted to the Minister, NOSDA submits the following information to contribute to the renewal of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Program:

NOSDA has reviewed the submission from OMSSA and HSC and supports all of the recommendations outlined in the document, In addition, there are several specific issues contained therein that require additional clarification from a Northern Ontario perspective. Specifically, Recommendations -

**#6 Financing** – We urge the Province to work with Service Managers to establish economic tools of sufficient scale to minimize risk. This may involve financial tools that cross Service Manager borders and should involve the Province underwriting initiatives in order to build a credit story that is attractive to investors.

**#9 Use of Municipal tools to develop affordable housing** – We ask that the Province continue to work with DSSAB's to clearly define the role and standing of DSSABs in municipal legislation (Planning Act, Municipal Act, etc.) to allow for DSSABs to take advantage of tools that are available to municipalities (i.e. opportunity for early access to school property tenders, access to MPAC information and property data)

**#23 Amend the HSA and Regulation 367/11 for consistency with the DSSAB Act particularly regarding the levy and apportionment formula.**

We wholeheartedly endorse this recommendation from the OMSSA/HSC Paper and concur with the recommendation that Section 117 of Regulation 367/11 must be removed. We have asked for the lifting of this onerous and wrong-headed Regulation for a number of years.

Apart from these specific endorsements, NOSDA also recommends that:

A. The Province should work with NOSDA and its Northern Service Managers to develop an allocation model for program funding (AHP, IAH, CHPI, etc.) that accounts for Northern circumstances. The short construction season, lack of contractors, price of fuel, cost of hydro, price of materials, and required transportation all result in increased costs while allocations are smaller due to the fact that they are based on household counts which means that SM must do more with less. This is not sustainable and is a bad investment strategy for the Province and a hidden download for the municipalities that must make up the difference.

B/ The Province should eliminate the 'Use it or lose it' funding policy associated with program dollars. Service Managers need the flexibility to pool program dollars across fiscal periods in order to optimize program delivery and generate scale for project development. This is a quick and easy win. The Provinces of Alberta and BC already demonstrate program funding models which are not based on a 'use it or lose it' policy.

C/ The Province must expand the network of ministries required to sustain housing and service development. The partnership table created to bring together Health and Housing must include education, finance, corrections, and others in order to truly bring the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy. More importantly, in Northern Ontario, when it comes to developing and sustaining housing in tenuous economic situations multiple strategies are required, such as economic development plans, tourism plans, education plans, etc. Housing development is difficult in communities where seniors have no market in which to sell their homes to free up the equity need for long-term rents in supported units and new families will not move to communities where elementary schools and emergency rooms are closing. A coordinated system management approach is needed and it must include high level ministry personnel along with DSSAB and municipal representatives.

#### **4. Conclusion**

**NOSDA members appreciate the ongoing communications and closer relations that we have enjoyed over the past few years with the MMAH, OMSSA and HSC as well as with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and its two Northern counterparts – the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Municipalities (FONOM). By working together, great strides can be taken to address the need for and provision of Affordable Housing in Northern Ontario. We look forward to continuing to build on our positive working relationship.**



## 4.0 RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### Websites:

1. Kenora: <http://www.kdsb.on.ca>
2. Rainy River: <http://www.rrdssab.ca>
3. Thunder Bay: <http://www.tbdssab.ca>
4. Algoma: <http://www.adsab.on.ca>
5. Sault Ste. Marie: <http://www.ssm-dssab.ca>
6. Manitoulin-Sudbury: <http://www.msdsb.net>
7. Greater Sudbury: <http://www.greatersudbury.ca>
8. Nipissing: <http://www.dnssab.on.ca>
9. Cochrane: <http://www.cdssab.on.ca>
10. Timiskaming: <http://www.dtssab.com>
11. Parry Sound: <http://www.psdssab.org>

### Publications:

Ontario Municipal Social Services Association and Housing Services Corporation. *Building Sustainability in the Housing System - Submission on the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Renewal: Early Wins for Long Term Gains*, March, 2015.

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. *Consolidated Pan-Northern Housing and Homelessness Report*, November 2014.

Ontario Municipal Social Services Association. *Enabling the Service System Management Role in Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention*. August, 2014.

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. *Homelessness in Northern Ontario Pre-feasibility Study for Implementing the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System in Northern Ontario*. July, 2014.

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. *NOSDA Strategic Plan 2013-2016*. October, 2013.

Northern Ontario Services Deliverers Association. *Voices in the Wilderness: A Pan Northern Ontario Homelessness Summit*. June, 2012.

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association. *A Pan-Northern Ontario Inventory of Homelessness Problems and Practices*. February, 2011.



**NOSDA**

# NOSDA Issues Book

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June 2015

## PART 2: ISSUES

### 2.1 CHILD CARE:

2015

#### 2.1.1 Early Years System

**Background:** The Ministry of Education has continued to transform the Early Years System for children and their families and continues to reiterate their commitment to stabilizing and enhancing the licensed child care services for children from birth to age four. However, despite Provincial commitment to stabilizing the licensed child care system, Northern Ontario remains fragile and has been further threatened by the mitigation of 4 and 5 year olds into the school system. NOSDA supports a childcare system that provides access to all children and seeks continued and substantial investment from Ontario to develop such a system.

**Issue:** Despite Provincial commitment to stabilizing the licensed child care system, Northern Ontario remains fragile and has been further threatened by the mitigation of 4 and 5 year olds into the school system.

**Action:** NOSDA supports a childcare system that provides access to all children and seeks continued and substantial investment from Ontario to develop such a system.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to work with the Province to create a childcare system that provides access to all children. NOSDA has written a letter to the Ministry of Education on this matter on May 20, 2015. The letter can be found in [Appendix A](#).

**Update:** A teleconference was held June 16, 2015 with Ministry of Education officials to discuss this issue.

2014

### 2.1.2 Early Years Policy Framework

**Background:** The Ministry of Education has proceeded to build on the Early Years Policy Framework by integrating Early Years programs into Best Start Child and Family Centres. CMSMs and DSSABs are key municipal partners in child care service system management but the current administration and funding system for Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC) was established along provincial ridings and not along municipal service management areas. NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education be requested to recognize CMSMs and DSSABs as the lead municipal partner for child care service system management for OEYC's and Best Start Child and Family Centres, that OEYC's be realigned according to CMSMs/DSSABs regions and that the service management for OEYC be transferred to CMSMs and DSSABs, including Data Analysis Coordinators and Early Literacy Specialists.

**Issue:** The administration and funding systems for Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC) were established along provincial ridings and not along municipal service management areas.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education be requested to recognize CMSMs and DSSABs as the lead municipal partner for child care service system management for OEYC's and Best Start Child and Family Centres, that OEYC's be realigned according to CMSMs/DSSABs regions and that the service management for OEYC be transferred to CMSMs and DSSABs, including Data Analysis Coordinators and Early Literacy Specialists.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Ministry of Education to address this matter.

**Update:**

### 2.1.3 Child Care Modernization Act

**Background:** The recent Child Care Modernization Act provides for extended day care programming for 6-12 year olds in schools that meet the minimum enrollment thresholds. However, access to extended day care programming continues to be a challenge in small rural schools because small schools and their third party operators are permitted to opt out of extended day care. NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education amends the CCMA agreement to require that smaller schools and their third party operators provide extended day care programming for children ages 4-12 in all schools, regardless of minimum numbers of students so that parents and families have equal access to services in line with the Ministry's vision for a seamless education experience for 4-12 year olds across Ontario.

**Issue:** Access to extended day care programming continues to be a challenge in small rural schools because small schools and their third party operators are permitted to opt out of extended day care.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education amends the CCMA agreement to require that smaller schools and their third party operators provide extended day care programming for children ages 4-12 in all schools, regardless of minimum numbers of students so that parents and families have equal access to services.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Ministry of Education to make needed changes to the Child Care Modernization Act.

**Update:**

## 2.2 EMS:

2014

### 2.2.1 Non Emergent Patient Transfers

**Background:** Non-urgent patient transportation for many rural Northern Ontario centres has become and continues to be the exclusive responsibility of the local Emergency Medical Services providers with demand reaching a critical level. Emergency Medical Services providers continue to struggle to meet the emergency medical needs of the citizens of their communities due to gaining-in-place populations and increased emergency demands for service. NOSDA recommended that the government of Ontario, and more specifically the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, work with NOSDA to place a high degree of importance on this topic with the aim of providing a made in the North solution. NOSDA also met with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), North East and North West Local Health Integration Networks (NE and NW LHINs), the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and other key stakeholders to put in place a 'Made in the North' solution to the Non Urgent Patient Transfer issue.

**Issue:** Emergency Medical Services providers continue to struggle to meet the emergency medical needs of the citizens of their communities due to gaining-in-place populations and increased emergency demands for service.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the government of Ontario, and more specifically the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, work with NOSDA to place a high degree of importance on this topic with the aim of providing a made in the North solution. NOSDA also met with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), North East and North West Local Health Integration Networks (NE and NW LHINs), the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and other key stakeholders to put in place a 'Made in the North' solution to the Non Urgent Patient Transfer issue.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to address this matter and will continue to work with stakeholders to improve the North.

**Update:**

## 2.3 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:

2015

### 2.3.1 Request to Redefine 'Deep Core Need' as Applied by MMAH

**Background:** A major issue related to affordable housing in the North is that the Province and the Federal Government are not investing in housing in areas where affordable housing is needed, causing affordable housing shortages. This is due to the current definition of the so-called 'deep core housing need' in a formulaic fashion that does not take into consideration what has been learned about how this allocation model and previous allocation models (population, unit counts, etc.) are inappropriate for the realities of the North and likewise for most Southern Ontario Service Managers with a large rural component. NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing addresses the definition and NOSDA will work with MMAH to develop a valid, funding formula approach appropriate for rural and Northern Ontario.

**Issue:** The Province and the Federal government are not investing in housing in areas where affordable housing is needed, causing affordable housing shortages. This is due to the current definition of the so-called 'deep core housing need' in a formulaic fashion that are inappropriate for the realities of the North and likewise for most Southern Ontario Service Managers with a large rural component.

**Action:** NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing addresses the definition and NOSDA will work with MMAH to develop a valid, funding formula approach appropriate for rural and Northern Ontario.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will work with MMAH to update the definition of 'deep core housing need' and to develop a valid formula appropriate for rural and Northern Ontario. A letter was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on May 20, 2015 regarding this issue and the letter can be found in [Appendix B](#).

**Update:**

### 2.3.2 Homelessness Data Collection in Northern Ontario (HIFIS)

**Background:** NOSDA received funding from the Community Development and Homelessness Partnering Directorate (formally Homelessness Partnering Strategy) of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to prepare a pre-feasibility report on the implementation of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS); and this project was successfully completed in July, 2014. It was found that the HIFIS system, as a shelter-based system, does not take into account the issue of 'hidden homelessness' and thus has limitations in relation to its inability to track homeless persons in Northern and rural areas. NOSDA recommends that the Federal and Provincial Governments work with NOSDA and Northern and rural communities to develop a more robust homelessness data collection system to enable greater service system management of the homeless population. It should also be ensured that the definition of homelessness being developed by the Provincial Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness is reflective of northern and rural experiences of homelessness.

**Issue:** It was found that the HIFIS system, as a shelter-based system, does not take into account the issue of 'hidden homelessness' and thus has limitations in relation to its inability to track homeless persons in Northern and rural areas. The definition of homelessness also needs to be redefined to include northern and rural experiences of homelessness.

**Action:** NOSDA recommends that the Federal and Provincial Governments work with NOSDA and Northern and rural communities to develop a more robust homelessness data collection system to enable greater service system management of the homeless population.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will offer their services to the Federal and Provincial Governments to develop a better homelessness data collection system. NOSDA sent a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on May 20, 2015 regarding this matter and the letter can be found in [Appendix B](#).

**Update:**

### 2.3.3 NOSDA Housing and Homelessness Plan Roll Up

**Background:** Part of the NOSDA Strategic Plan 2013-2016, included a section whereby Service Managers expressed an interest in having a Pan-Northern Roll-Up of provincially mandated Housing and Homelessness Plans. The initial Roll-Up was prepared by a consortium consisting of NOSDA, Housing Services Corporation, and the Ontario Municipal Services Association in the spring of 2014 to identify common patterns, concerns, programming, and advocacy themes across Northern Ontario.

**Issue:** Service Managers are interested in having a Pan-Northern Roll-Up of provincially mandated Housing and Homelessness Plans but the plans must be updated.

**Action:** NOSDA has written a letter to the North East and North West Local Health Integration Networks (NW and NE LHIN's) regarding this matter and is requesting collaboration in the development of improved supportive housing. The letter can be found in [Appendix B](#).

**Follow Up Required:** The Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) requires that the housing and homelessness plans be updated by service managers. This work is currently on going (June 2015).

**Update:**



#### 2.3.4 Long-Term affordable Housing Strategy

**Background:** NOSDA will be submitting a Long-Term Housing Strategy Update. NOSDA will be sharing a roll-up of the submission to FONOM and NOMA to align their positions.

**Issue:** NOSDA must prepare and submit a Long-Term Housing Strategy Update.

**Action:** The Housing Working Group is currently preparing a submission and will share it with the CAOs once completed for feedback.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will share their submission with FONOM and NOMA once it is finalized.

**Update:**

2014

### 2.3.5 “Digging Deep: How Mining Can Support Northern Ontario Housing Initiatives”

**Background:** Ontario's rich mineral landscape generates considerable wealth of over \$9 billion per year and employs over 23,000 people. However, mining's socio-economic and environmental costs and benefits are unevenly distributed. NOSDA accepts the findings and recommendations in the paper prepared by Housing Services Corporation entitled “Digging Deep: How Mining Can Support Northern Ontario Housing Initiatives” dated September 2013. NOSDA Executives and CAO Table was to be tasked with analyzing this valuable paper, share it with the Northern Policy Institute and investigate the engagement of other stakeholders into the dialogue on social infrastructure in resource-based communities.

**Issue:** Mining's socio-economic and environmental costs and benefits are unevenly distributed.

**Action:** NOSDA accepts the findings and recommendations in the paper prepared by Housing Services Corporation entitled “Digging Deep: How Mining Can Support Northern Ontario Housing Initiatives”. The NOSDA Executives and CAO Table was to be tasked with analyzing this valuable paper, share it with the Northern Policy Institute and investigate the engagement of other stakeholders into the dialogue on social infrastructure in resource-based communities.

**Follow Up Required:** A presentation of housing and mining in northern communities was presented at the Annual General Meeting in April 2015.

**Update:**

### 2.3.6 Need for Federal Funding for Social and Affordable Housing in Canada

**Background:** There is an urgent need for the Federal Government to return to the table as a partner with the Provinces and Territories in funding long-term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents. NOSDA is very concerned that federal funding for social and affordable housing is declining and that the Federal Government appears to be exiting its previous long-term commitment to addressing the social housing needs of the country. NOSDA communicated to the Minister of Employment and Social Development stressing the need for a national housing strategy and requested that the Federal Government returns to the table and collaborate with Provincial/Territorial Housing Ministers to develop a long-term plan that addresses the need for social and affordable housing across the country.

**Issue:** The Federal Government needs to return to the table as a partner with the Provinces and Territories in funding long-term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

**Action:** NOSDA communicated to the Minister of Employment and Social Development stressing the need for a national housing strategy and requested that the Federal Government returns to the table and collaborate with Provincial/Territorial Housing Ministers to develop a long-term plan that addresses the need for social and affordable housing across the country.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to work with the Federal Government and key stakeholders to develop a long-term plan that addresses the need for social and affordable housing.

**Update:**

### 2.3.7 Utility Scale

**Background:** The Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, sets tables to be used by Service Managers for utility costs and these tables have not been updated to reflect true economic increases in utility costs since devolution in 2000. NOSDA recommended that the Province of Ontario, immediately adjust the utility tables within the Housing Services Act, O. Reg. 298/01, to reflect the true cost of utilities in Northern Ontario and that the Province of Ontario provide a mechanism within the tables, to annually adjust the tables relative to true economic costs to ensure local municipalities are not disadvantaged in future years.

**Issue:** The Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, sets tables to be used by Service Managers for utility costs and these tables have not been updated to reflect true economic increases in utility costs since devolution in 2000.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the Province of Ontario, immediately adjust the utility tables within the Housing Services Act, O. Reg. 298/01, to reflect the true cost of utilities in Northern Ontario and that the Province of Ontario provide a mechanism within the tables, to annually adjust the tables.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Province to update the regulation and to adjust the utility tables.

**Update:**

### 2.3.8 Surplus Properties

**Background:** The disposition of surplus property by School Boards is governed by Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act, which provides for a list of bodies to receive notice proposals that include a Municipality in which the property is located, an upper-tier Municipality and Local Service Boards. However, DSSABs/CMSMs have not been specifically identified in the regulation, resulting in inconsistent interpretation of DSSABs/CMSMs as either a Municipality or Local Service Board. CMSMs/DSSABs in Northern Ontario are being excluded even though CMSMs in all other areas of the Province are recognized under regulation 444/98. NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education be requested to acknowledge and take all steps necessary, including amending existing regulations to guarantee DSSABs be formally included in the list of bodies receiving notice for surplus property disposals under Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act.

**Issue:** The disposition of surplus property by School Boards is governed by Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act, which provides for a list of bodies to receive notice proposals that include a Municipality in which the property is located, an upper-tier Municipality and Local Service Boards. However, DSSABs/CMSMs have not been specifically identified in the regulation and are being excluded.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the Ministry of Education be requested to acknowledge and take all steps necessary, including amending existing regulations to guarantee DSSABs be formally included in the list of bodies receiving notice for surplus property disposals under Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Ministry of Education to update existing regulations to ensure DSSABs are included in the list of bodies receiving notice on surplus properties.

**Update:**

## 2.4 ONTARIO WORKS:

2015

### 2.4.1 Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) Software Delays

**Background:** The Ministry of Community and Social Services has launched a multi-year Social Services Solutions Modernization Project (SSSMP) to enhance the delivery of social assistance through technology and business renewal. However, NOSDA has concerns regarding the structure implementation of the new Social Assistance Management System (SAMS). The concerns are:

- There is less time available for case management due to SAMS implementation.
- SAMS implementation has created back logs of work.
- The SAMS system browser is not compatible with other browsers or other Ministries' programs such as Child Care.
- There are high direct and indirect human and financial costs due to SAMS implementation.

Therefore NOSDA is working in close partnership with MCSS to ensure successful implementation. NOSDA also requests that the Government of Ontario assume 100% responsibility for all short and long-term costs associated with SAMS implementation.

**Issue:** NOSDA has concerns regarding the implementation of the new Social Assistance Management System (SAMS).

**Action:** NOSDA is working in close partnership with MCSS to ensure successful implementation of SAMS. NOSDA also requests that the Government of Ontario assume 100% responsibility for all short and long-term costs associated with SAMS implementation.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA wrote a letter to the Premier January 19, 2015 expressing their concerns regarding SAMS. The letter can be found in [Appendix C](#). NOSDA has since received responses from the Premier and Richard Steele, ADM of the Social Assistance Operations Division. NOSDA will continue to work closely with MCSS to ensure the successful implementation of SAMS.

**Update:**

2014

#### 2.4.2 Provincial Announcement of Social Services SAMS Software Delays

**Background:** The Ministry of Community and Social Services has launched a multi-year Social Services Solutions Modernization Project (SSSMP) to enhance the delivery of social assistance through technology and business renewal. The project has faced significant challenges and the tentatively planned go-live date of this new technology has now been re-scheduled again as a result of the delays in data conversion. The municipal service managers have gone to considerable expense and time to train staff, thus incurring unexpected costs associated with the recurring delays. NOSDA requested that the Minister of Community and Social Services to provide enhanced funding to cover 100% of the cost of the additional staff and related costs associated with recurring delays in SAMS implementation.

**Issue:** The Ministry of Community and Social Services has launched a multi-year Social Services Solutions Modernization Project (SSSMP). The project faced significant challenges and the tentatively planned go-live date of this new technology was re-scheduled again as a result of the delays in data conversion. The municipal service managers went to considerable expense and time to train staff, thus incurring unexpected costs associated with the recurring delays.

**Action:** NOSDA requested that the Minister of Community and Social Services provide enhanced funding to cover 100% of the cost of the additional staff and related costs associated with recurring delays in SAMS implementation.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to work with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to improve the implementation of SAMS.

**Update:**

### 2.4.3 RGI vs Utilizing Maximum Social Assistance Rates

**Background:** Service Managers are bound by the Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, in the calculation of rent for Social Housing Tenants. However, these tables have not been adjusted since devolution of Social Housing in 2000. NOSDA recommended that the Province of Ontario make amendments to the current tables within the Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, to permit Service Managers to utilize the maximum allowable shelter rates for recipients of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program when calculating rent changes for these Social Housing Tenants.

**Issue:** Service Managers are bound by the Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, in the calculation of rent for Social Housing Tenants. However, these tables have not been adjusted since devolution of Social Housing in 2000.

**Action:** NOSDA recommended that the Province of Ontario make amendments to the current tables within the Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act, to permit Service Managers to utilize the maximum allowable shelter rates for recipients of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program when calculating rent changes for these Social Housing Tenants.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to offer their services to the Province of Ontario to improve the current tables in the Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 298/01, Determination of Geared-to-income Rent under Section 50 of the Act.

**Update:**



## 2.5 OTHER ISSUES:

2015

### 2.5.1 DSSAB Capital Borrowing from Infrastructure Ontario

**Background:** DSSABs are corporations created pursuant to the District Social Services Administration Board Act (the “**DSSAB Act**”) and are also governed by Parts I, III and VII of the Corporations Act (Ontario). DSSABs have also been provided with Natural Person Powers and can contract in their own names, including contracting to borrow funds. However, DSSABs are not eligible to access Infrastructure Ontario (IO) funds for any of its programs where other CMSMs and other municipalities can. Therefore, NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Infrastructure amend the Ontario Infrastructure and Land Corporations Act in order for DSSABs to be eligible applicants under the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program.

**Issue:** DSSABs are not eligible to access Infrastructure Ontario (IO) funds for any of its programs where other CMSMs and other municipalities can.

**Action:** NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Infrastructure amends the Ontario Infrastructure and Land Corporations Act in order for DSSABs to be eligible applicants under the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA has written a letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure regarding this issue on May 20, 2015 and the letter can be found in [Appendix D](#).

**Update:**

## 2.5.2 NOSDA Request to Align DSSAB and Municipal Council Terms

**Background:** There is a major inconsistency between the Municipal Act and the DSSAB Act in the definition of the end of a municipal council term and the end of a DSSAB Board term; and the inconsistent definition results in a gap between the end of a Municipal Council term which is November 30th and the December 31st end of term for DSSAB Board members. NOSDA requests that MCSS amend the Regulation 278/98 made pursuant to the DSSAB Act to align DSSAB Board Terms with Municipal Council terms as set out in the Municipal Act in time for the 2018 Municipal Election or state in the Regulation that the DSSAB Board will not meet in the month of December of an election year.

**Issue:** There is inconsistency between the Municipal Act and the DSSAB Act in the definition of the end of a municipal council term and the end of a DSSAB Board term.

**Action:** NOSDA requests that MCSS amend the Regulation 278/98 made pursuant to the DSSAB Act to align DSSAB Board Terms with Municipal Council terms as set out in the Municipal Act in time for the 2018 Municipal Election or state in the Regulation that the DSSAB Board will not meet in the month of December of an election year.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA has sent a letter to the Ministry of Community and Social Services on May 20, 2015 requesting that this issue be addressed and the letter can be found in [Appendix D](#).

**Update:**

### 2.5.3 Ministerial Clarification of Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and District Social Service Administration Boards ADD to Other ISSEs

**Background:** NOSDA questions the net result of the published reports of the uploading of municipal service costs, and feel recent Ministerial correspondence may be misrepresenting the true nature of the uploads and the OMPF reductions that many Northern Ontario municipalities have experienced. The OMPF program has been significantly restructured since the 2012 Review and the provincial uploading was tax neutral but by no means were there any savings to the municipalities as the province reduced the OMPF by the same amount of the provincial upload. It is difficult to discuss the OMPF and the implied savings with our municipal partners when both the municipal partners and the DSSAB's cannot interpret the provincial calculations. NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance hold a meeting to discuss the OMPF calculations and the provincial uploads with NOSDA and its constituent members, and that every effort be taken to ensure wide spread agreement on the results.

**Issue:** NOSDA questions the net result of the published reports of the uploading of municipal service costs, and feel recent Ministerial correspondence may be misrepresenting the true nature of the uploads and the OMPF reductions that many Northern Ontario municipalities have experienced.

**Action:** NOSDA recommends that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance hold a meeting to discuss the OMPF calculations and the provincial uploads with NOSDA and its constituent members, and that every effort be taken to ensure wide spread agreement on the results.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA has sent a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on this matter on May 20, 2015. NOSDA will continue to work with the Ministry to fix this issue. The letter can be found in [Appendix D](#).

**Update:**

#### 2.5.4 Relationship Building

**Background:** NOSDA has made headway in building a stronger relationship with the Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN's). NOSDA has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) with the goal of continuing to strengthen their relationship with each organization. NOSDA has also been strengthening their relationship with FONOM and NOMA to create a united voice for the North.

**Issue:** NOSDA needs to continue strengthening their relationships with stakeholders.

**Follow Up Required:** NOSDA will continue to strengthen relationships and partnerships with its stakeholders.

**Update:**