

INTERCITY BUS TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Transportation is examining how people travel between communities by intercity bus, and

WHEREAS this review may result in changes to the regulations that govern the operation of intercity bus services across the Province and in particular in Northern Ontario, and

WHEREAS although intercity bus service is an essential service for many residents of Northwestern Ontario, successive governments have allowed the service to be reduced and in some areas eliminated as the regulations moved away from a concept of cross subsidization whereby operators on a particular route used the profits from the more lucrative routes to subsidize the service to the more remote parts of the province, and

WHEREAS only Minaki, Sioux Lookout, Collins, Armstrong, Nakina, Longlac and Hornepayne have scheduled VIA Rail passenger service, and

WHEREAS only Fort Frances, Kenora, Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Nakina and Thunder Bay have scheduled air passenger service (other than the remote First Nation communities), and

WHEREAS residents without a personal vehicle must rely on family, friends or in many cases non-urgent transportation by Emergency Medical Service paramedics for transportation to major centres particularly for health reasons as intercity bus service is either inadequate or none existent, and

WHEREAS the same Ministry of Transportation has been conducting an analysis of the multi-modal transportation needs of Northern Ontario for the past three years and is approximately one year away from completing the study and recommending a plan for Northern Ontario, and

WHEREAS the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association has requested that the Ontario Government set aside future infrastructure funds for the implementation of the Multimodal Transportation Study, and

WHEREAS it would be prudent for the Northern Ontario portion of the current study of intercity bus service to be suspended and referred to the Multi-modal Transportation Study for incorporation into the long term plan

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that

_____ call on the Ministry of Transportation to refer all matters related to any reform of the intercity bus transportation regulations applicable to Northern Ontario to the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Study, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation Multimodal Transportation Study pay particular attention to the manner in which all modes of passenger transportation can be enhanced throughout Northwestern Ontario, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be filed with the EBR, and copied to the Minister of Transportation for Ontario, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Minister of Natural Resources, the MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, NOMA, NOACC and the Common Voice Northwest Transportation Task Force.