



**NORTHERN ONTARIO  
SERVICE DELIVERERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o Henry Wall  
211 Princess Street, Suite 1  
Dryden ON P8N 3L5

June 19, 2017

Hon. Helena Jaczek,  
Minister of Community and Social Services  
6th Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor St, Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

**SENT BY EMAIL:** [hjaczek.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:hjaczek.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Dear Minister:

**RE: DSSAB Act Review**

Our organization has taken considerable time discussing the implications and activities related to the District Social Services Act Review initiated by your Ministry in 2016. At our June 9, 2017 Annual General Meeting, the following Resolution was passed:

**WHEREAS** the Ministry of Community and Social Services instigated a review of the DSSAB Act, originally implemented in 1998 to provide the governance and accountability framework for the delivery of social services in Northern Ontario, and

**WHEREAS** the Act is intended to lay out a fair and equitable framework across diverse populations, geographic areas and municipal organizational structures, and

**WHEREAS** in recent years, the province has heard concerns from DSSABs and individual member areas around governance issues, including but not limited to levy apportionment and conflict resolution mechanisms, and

**WHEREAS** NOSDA and individual DSSABs have identified a number of issues within the current act that do not facilitate the proper functioning of the DSSABs, and

**WHEREAS** it is acknowledged that there should be a thoughtful review of the Act rather than attempting to address issues in isolation at the local level.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NOSDA submits the following for the Minister's information and inclusion in the DSSAB Act Review; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** DSSABs be acknowledged as corporations under the new DSSAB Act and that their ability to borrow as a corporation be recognized by the province and by Infrastructure Ontario; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the current definition of TWOMOs in the DSSAB Act be applied to all other Acts and Regulations; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** it be clarified in legislation or regulation that the province will reimburse DSSABs 100% of all reasonable TWOMO election costs; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** DSSABs be funded on a 'current calendar year' basis and not on a previous year fiscal basis as occurs under EMS Land Ambulance funding currently; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** for consistency, that "*the DSSAB Act Review*" recommend that the DSSAB Act be aligned with the Municipal Act for consistency of treatment of DSSABs with the functions that they perform as Municipal Service System Managers; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** it would be recommended that DSSABs be overseen by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Term of Office of DSSAB Board Members and TWOMO Members match the Term of Office for Municipal Councillors in a manner acceptable for the operations of both municipalities and DSSABs, post municipal election so that both are functioning as soon as possible after municipal elections; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** as part of '*the DSSAB Act Review*', that language relating to DSSABs in all legislation (Acts and Regulations) should be reviewed and modified where necessary to ensure consistency; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** notwithstanding, the definitions and descriptions related to DSSABs in other legislation be superseded by those used in the revised DSSAB Act; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province commit to work with DSSABs to finalize the current Interim Governance and Accountability Guidelines for District Social Services Administration Boards and ensure they are consistent with the revised DSSAB Act and Regulations; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province commit to review the revised DSSAB Act after a period of no more than ten years.

Minister, we welcome this Review and look forward to working with you and your staff to address these and other important related matters as we address changes to the DSSAB Act.

Sincerely,



Iain Angus, Chair