

September 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Room 28, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1  
Sent Via Email: [Premier@ontario.ca](mailto:Premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford,

In 2002 the Conservative Government created the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) to address the health needs of the region, improve access to quality care, and contribute to the economic development of Northern Ontario. On April 1, 2022, we celebrated as your Government proclaimed NOSM a standalone university, becoming Canada's only independent Medical University.

NOSM University is one of the greatest successes in Canada as it relates to addressing health workforce supply, with over 50% of graduates choosing family medicine as a career and over 90% of combined MD and postgraduate learners staying in Northern Ontario. Today, over 400,000 northerners receive primary and acute care from a NOSM University-trained doctor. Furthermore, many specialists have been created by NOSM University, providing care closer to home and reducing the need for patients to travel south to decrease the cost of the Northern Health Travel Grant.

We attribute much of this success to a "distributed community engaged learning" model that places its learners in 90 communities (135 organizations) across Northern Ontario throughout the academic year. NOSM University's economic impact in our region is immeasurable, but the institution is in jeopardy.

Northern Ontario remains in a healthcare crisis. More than 350 physicians are currently needed to fill shortages, which does not account for anticipated retirements. Areas of the North that are still in dire need of healthcare services are rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. NOSM University is the only Northern solution to meeting our physician workforce needs.

We are grateful for your Government's decision to increase medical school spaces at NOSM University. Still, the momentum gained in addressing the health inequities in the North will be considerably impacted by the lack of financial sustainability for this newly created University.

While the creation of NOSM University gives it the autonomy to yield tremendous success in Northern physician recruitment and retention, the costs associated with

becoming a university, undertaking an unprecedented expansion, and continuing to offer world-class community-based education are significant. The University's current base funding rates have not been increased sufficiently, and cost reductions are no longer attainable or feasible.

As such, we respectfully support NOSM University's request to the Province of Ontario for a permanent increase in annual base funding of \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that the Conservative Government established initially in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Mayor



**The Corporation of the Township of Prince**

WHEREAS Prince Township recognized the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians

WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and mental health and addictions are at a four-times higher rate

WHEREAS one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor, and many must travel long distances to access healthcare services representing the failure of healthcare in Northern Ontario

WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities

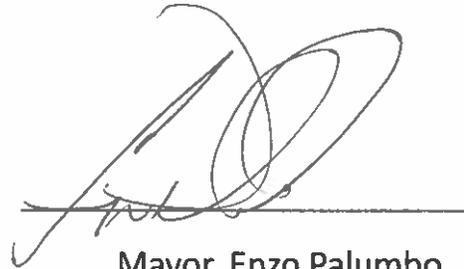
WHEREAS in April of 2022, the Government announced an unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs

AND WHEREAS the current base funding rates for the Northern School of Medicine University (NOSM) have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Township strongly requests the Provincial Government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding by \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that the Conservative Government initially established in response to the needs of Northern municipalities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier

Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enzo Palumbo', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mayor, Enzo Palumbo





The Corporation of the Township of Prince  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Tuesday September 19, 2023

Resolution #	2023 – 208	Agenda Item #	13 c)
Moved By:	Jane Weir	Seconded By:	Margaret Christenson
Signature:		Signature:	

Be it resolved that Council to support the NOSM Resolution requesting a provincial increase in base funding to address the health needs of the region, northern communities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		Recorded Vote			
X	CARRIED	Mayor & Council	Yes	No	Pecuniary Interest
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Enzo Palumbo, Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Margaret Christenson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Mick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Jane Weir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Eugene Caputo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote, and influence.

MAYOR – ENZO PALUMBO	CLERK: