

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 10, 2015

Hon. Madeleine Meilleur
Attorney General
McMurty-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Minister Meilleur,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with representatives from northern Ontario municipalities to discuss Bill 52, the Protection of Public Participation Act. We felt the meeting was positive and has given the Government of Ontario and northern municipalities a better understanding of each other's positions.

We support the intent of the legislation, but as discussed, have concerns with specific wording and how some aspects of implementation might adversely affect those that the legislation seeks to protect.

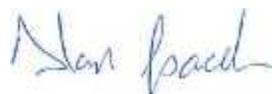
As you are aware, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities has been vocal on this issue through the media and other channels. With the Legislature back in session, it was our intention to roll out broader efforts to engage members of the public on this issue as well, but following our meeting, we felt it prudent to reach out to your office first. We have held off in favour of working with your office through Arthur Hamilton, as discussed, on word changes that would address our concerns and re-enforce the intent of the bill.

We do not believe it necessary to apply additional pressure if this work will happen prior the legislation advancing or being called on the floor for additional debate. We were concerned to see the bill debated last week and hope your office will ensure future debate does not occur until the government has had the opportunity to consider the proposed changes we discussed and that Mr. Hamilton will expand on.

Can you please assure us that the bill will not be revisited in the legislature during the period of time that discussions between northern municipalities regarding possible changes are happening with your office?

This assurance is sufficient for us to engage good faith, cooperative discussions without the need to increase attention or seek to raise the profile of our concerns.

Please advise.



Alan Spacek
President