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October 23, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier for the Government of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

premier@ontario.ca

Re: Policy Without Appropriation: Physician Shortage in Northern Ontario and the Practice Ready Ontario Program; Support of Bruce Mines Resolution No. 2026-181

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin, we are writing to you in support of the Council of the Town of Bruce Mines resolution no. 2026-181 addressing the physician shortage in Northern Ontario.

Being that Northern Ontario's municipalities face a structural imbalance that is fundamentally different from communities in the south. We are small in population, geographically dispersed, and operate with limited tax bases that cannot support the escalating costs associated with physician recruitment, retention, and community health infrastructure. Despite these limitations, municipalities are increasingly expected to shoulder responsibilities that fall squarely within the provincial mandate for health care delivery.

Municipalities have stepped in where we can, but we cannot continue to fund physician recruitment packages, housing incentives, locum coverage, or clinic operations without dedicated provincial support. The current model places an unsustainable burden on small communities that simply do not have the tax revenue to fill the gaps left by the provincial health care system.

Therefore, the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin endorses Resolution 226-2026:

We respectfully request that the Province of Ontario:

1. ***Establish a dedicated Northern Ontario Physician Recruitment and Retention Fund,*** *accessible to small and rural municipalities ensuring communities are not forced to subsidize provincial healthcare responsibilities.*
2. ***Work directly with Northern municipalities*** *to develop a coordinated strategy that reflects the unique demographic, geographic, and fiscal realities of the North.*

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and kindly request a written response from your office.

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise Deforge – CAO/Clerk
Municipality of Central Manitoulin

cc.

Ms. Marit Stiles
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario

Mr. John Fraser
Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier of Ontario Minister of Health

The Honourable George Pirie
Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth

Bill Rosenberg
Member of Provincial Parliament Algoma-Manitoulin

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) Distributed to all Ontario municipalities.

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