



NOSDA Priorities

NOSDA launched its 5-year strategic plan **Stronger Together: Leading Change for Health and Human Services in Northern Ontario**

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Strengthen Advocacy and Political Influence
- Drive Solutions to Improve Service Delivery
- Advance Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration
- Enhance NOSDA's Communications and Political Awareness
- Build Organizational Governance and Member Capacity
- Leverage Data for Decision Making & Policy Development

1. Community Housing - Infrastructure Funding

- Since 2017 the landscape has changed in Northern Ontario
 - Our cost per square foot to build new is well over \$500
 - The cost per door is over \$500,000
- NOSDA has started working with Ellis Don Community Builders to look at a portfolio build
 - Turnkey, Portfolio Non-Market Development across Northern Ontario
 - Utilization of Base Design to Accelerate Predevelopment
 - Portfolio-Centric Recycling Funding Model

- Thus far, NOSDA has identified 925 units for development across 21 sites across Northern Ontario representing approximately \$471 million in total development costs.

2. Addressing Rising Homelessness:

- In addition to NOSDA's partnership with AMO and OMSSA, NOSDA is building on the Municipalities Under Pressure Report by developing a Joint Project with CMHA Ontario
- The Housing & Homelessness Projection Modelling initiative is a joint effort between the NOSDA and the CMHA Ontario Division with support from HelpSeeker Technologies. The project was conceived to tackle a central and urgent question:
 - What is the optimal financial contribution required to end homelessness in Northern Ontario including support services?
 - This initiative will equip NOSDA and CMHA with a robust, defensible evidence base to support regional investment strategies, advocate for provincial funding, and guide public discourse on homelessness prevention and resolution
 - We are hoping for a final report in early November which could be shared with the province at ROMA in January

3. Investing in Critical Infrastructure by Funding Social Infrastructure Development in Northern Ontario

- Province of Ontario to establish a dedicated Northern Ontario stream within the Skills Development Fund to resource Northern DSSABs and the City of Greater Sudbury to train and support individuals that are needed to secure Canada's economic security now and for generations to come, through the mining of critical minerals, harvesting of lumber, and staffing critical support services
- NOSDA requests ongoing annualized funding of \$12 million to support the professional development and training of frontline social services staff across Northern Ontario ensuring they have the advanced skills, tools, and partnerships combined with the industry specific expertise required to deliver informed, mental health and addictions-integrated, employment-focused case management, aligned with the evolving demands of Northern Ontario's labour market and economy

4. Community Paramedicine Funding

- The province has made community paramedicine funding permanent
 - Now we need to ensure it stays 100% provincial
 - Allocations are updated based on current long term care waiting lists
 - Allocations are increased annually in accordance with CPI

Transition to a Three-Year Paramedic Degree Program

- Colleges Ontario is looking for the Ministry of Colleges and Ministry of Health to approve a three Paramedic Degree program
- NOSDA not opposed to higher education for Paramedics but we
 - NOSDA members, as equal 50/50 funders of Paramedic Services in Northern Ontario, should be formally included in the decision-making process as these considerations proceed.

5. New CWELCC Funding Formula

- funding formula requires increased funding flexibility, allowing better allocation of resources to meet operator and family needs
- province mandates a minimum of 37% access rate to CWELCC funded spaces in Northern Ontario
- province expands the Ontario Learn and Stay Grant in Northern Ontario to include Early Childhood Education

6. Social Assistance Earnings Exemptions

- expected outcomes of these High Acuity Mental Health and Addiction Support Teams is eviction prevention, reduced emergency department visits, reduced hospital admissions, reduced hospital in patient days, reduced crisis calls, reduced paramedic, police and fire interventions, increased activities of daily living and programming

- recommending that the implementation of a flat \$1,000 per month earnings exemption for social assistance recipients on Ontario Works to incentivize employment and financial independence

7. Employment Ontario and OW Targets

- the province adjusts the 12% OW employment target to recognize Northern Ontario health and economic challenges or provide additional resources to cover the additional costs
- Also since referrals will be going directly to EO at application how does this now affect OW ability to achieve its targets if in theory EO is creaming job ready referrals off the top

8. Ontario Health North & Supportive Housing Proposal

- Minister of Health provides a funding allocation to Ontario Health North so each of the 11 NOSDA members can implement integrated mental health and addictions support teams in housing in their communities
- expected outcomes of these High Acuity Mental Health and Addiction Support Teams is eviction prevention, reduced emergency department visits, reduced hospital admissions, reduced hospital in patient days, reduced crisis calls, reduced paramedic, police and fire interventions, increased activities of daily living and programming

9. Landlord & Tenant Board

- DSSAB, CMSM, and LHC's should be exempt from the provincial LTB hearings. This will empower municipalities to manage tenant disputes more effectively and expedite resolutions.

**Next years AGM will be at the Best Western Hotel in North Bay
June 9-11, 2026**