

## **NOMA FORMATTING TEMPLATE FOR RESOLUTIONS**

*Sample resolution included on page 2*

### Submission of resolutions for consideration by NOMA

Resolution proposals are accepted at any time for consideration by the Board. To ensure timeliness, only those resolution proposals received within 90 days of the Annual General Meeting will be referred to the Resolutions Committee (as outlined in the Constitution) for recommendation to the membership at the AGM. If the matter is urgent in nature, the submitting party may request that the Board consider immediately in lieu of waiting for the AGM.

The format of a resolution submitted should adhere to the template shown below. Resolution submissions should also include a covering letter providing a contact name and number for any questions or comments regarding the resolution.

### **TITLE**

Submitted by:

Year:

### Background

Include an outline of the problem at hand and a brief assessment of available policy options. The background should include all relevant data and information (sources shown if any) and arguments should be clear and concise.

### Recommendation(s):

The recommendation should be directed to the specific Government(s) or Ministry(ies) for its action and begins with

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association...

## *SAMPLE RESOLUTION*

### **CHANGES TO FEDERAL CENSUS 2011**

Submitted by: NOMA Board of Directors  
July 2010

#### **Background**

Business, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and all orders of government use Statistics Canada's Census data to inform their policy decision making and program and service implementation. Much of the data is collected from the mandatory "long form" questionnaire which asked questions on issues such as work, education, housing, income, child care, migration, ethnicity, and family life. The Census "long-form" is a unique tool that provides decision-makers a rich set of facts about our communities and the citizens who live and work within them.

The Federal Government quietly eliminated the mandatory nature of the "long form" of the upcoming 2011 Census. Notice was provided in the June 26<sup>th</sup> Canada Gazette that this change had occurred through an Order in Council, without any prior consultation. In its place, a voluntary "national household survey" with detailed questions about ethnicity, income and education will be sent to one-third of homes.

NOMA is concerned with this decision because of its significant potential negative impact to our collective capacity to conduct reliable, accurate analysis of municipal issues. Issues and programs/services that could be affected:

- municipal funding,
- social assistance,
- immigration,
- health,
- poverty,
- economic development,
- training,
- education,
- housing,
- child care, and
- employment.

#### **Recommendation**

WHEREAS a survey methodology that relies on voluntary responses will compromise the effectiveness of the data as evidence indicates that a significant portion of Northwestern Ontario will be underrepresented; and,

WHEREAS although the 2011 voluntary survey will be sent to more households (from one-fifth to one-third), the voluntary nature will make the data size and response unreliable and not to the accuracy required to ensure efficient and effective program delivery; and,

WHEREAS a lack of current, accurate Census data will be especially challenging in Northwestern Ontario where sufficient information has traditionally been less attainable, even with the previous mandatory collection system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association calls on the Federal Government to reverse this decision immediately and return to the previously applied mandatory long form process for the 2011 National Census; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, all Northwestern Ontario MP's, and all NOMA District Associations and member municipalities asking for their support.

Adopted by the Board: July 2010