

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-00-0127
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 26 April 2000

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. A/Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **RESOLUTIONS FROM NORTH BAY CITY COUNCIL AND
WATERLOO REGIONAL COUNCIL**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

For Committee discussion.

BACKGROUND

Committee Chair Munter requested that the attached motions passed by North Bay City Council and Waterloo Regional Council regarding the provincial government's intentions on Zero Tolerance for Social Assistance Fraud be placed on the agenda for 4 May 00 for Committee discussion.

*Approved by
Stephani Roy*



February 28, 2000
File: S04-01

**MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILS RESPONSIBLE FOR O.W. CONSOLIDATED
MUNICIPAL SERVICE MANAGEMENT (List Attached)**

Re: Provincial Government's Policy Intentions on Zero Tolerance for Social Assistance Fraud

This is to inform you that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at its meeting of February 9, 2000, approved the following:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to The Provincial Government's Policy Intentions On Zero Tolerance For Social Assistance Fraud as outlined in Report SS-00-012 dated February 2, 2000:

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Waterloo recognizes that the Ontario Works program is an income security program of last resort;

AND WHEREAS the allowances provided to social assistance recipients are inadequate to meet basic family needs of food, shelter and other daily necessities in many cases;

AND WHEREAS there are existing penalties for social assistance fraud;

AND WHEREAS a lifetime ban for social assistance fraud could result in extreme consequences for individuals and families such as loss of accommodation, inability to properly and adequately feed the family unit and breakup of the family unit;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of a lifetime ban policy will lead to broader community issues and consequences and will likely in the long term be more costly to the Region and the Province;

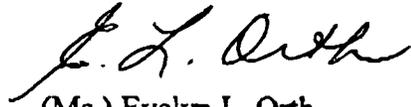
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario be petitioned to not proceed with the implementation of a lifetime ban for individuals convicted of social assistance fraud;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of the Province of Ontario and the Minister of Community and Social Services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to all municipal and regional councils who have responsibility for Ontario Works Consolidated Municipal Service Management.

Please find enclosed a copy of Report SS-00-012 for your information.

Yours truly,



(Ms.) Evelyn L. Orth
Regional Clerk

MM/lsf

cc: Hon. Michael D. Harris, Premier of Ontario
Hon. John Baird, Minister of Community and Social Services
W. Pyatt, Commissioner of Social Services

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February 2, 2000

Hon. Michael D. Harris
Room 281, Main Building
TORONTO, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Sir:

This is Resolution No. 30 which was passed by Council at its Regular Meeting held Monday, January 24, 2000.

Resolution No. 30:

"THAT WHEREAS the Ontario Government has already enacted significant welfare reforms including tighter enforcement of regulations; and

WHEREAS welfare fraud convictions have significantly decreased over the last year; and

WHEREAS the government further intends to enact a policy of "no forgiveness for life" for all persons convicted of welfare fraud; and

WHEREAS this policy will further contribute to child poverty and the quality of life for children of persons convicted of welfare fraud; and

WHEREAS the North Bay City Council does not condone fraud, it deems this to be harsh and unfair treatment of citizens of this province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of North Bay petition the government to reconsider and withdraw this policy; and

Hon. Michael D. Harris
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2. A copy of this resolution be forwarded to A.M.O., the local D.S.S.A.B., F.O.N.O.M. and the Northern Mayors' Group for consideration."

Yours truly,

Bonny Harrison,
City Clerk.

BH/cjc

cc: Hon. John Baird, Min. of Community & Social Services
A.M.O.
F.O.N.O.M.
D.S.S.A.B.
Northeastern Ontario Municipal Action Group