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Town of Rainy River

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Gerry Pasloski DATE: July 12, 2021

SECONDED BY Neil Wall RESOLUTION: 21-026

“**WHEREAS** every day optometrists take pride in helping their patients see clearly and preventing blindness; and

WHEREAS for over 30 years, the Ontario government has refused to formally negotiate with optometrists; and

WHEREAS in 1989, the Ontario government paid \$39.15 for an eye exam and in 2021 (32 years later) they pay an average of \$44.65; and

WHEREAS this amount does not come close to covering the cost (including rent, staff, utilities, equipment, taxes and supplies) to provide an eye exam; and

WHEREAS this is not sustainable for optometrists and the Ontario government continues to ignore eye care; and

WHEREAS optometrists are left with no choice but to end access to eye care for millions of Ontarians as of September 1, 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Ontario Association of Optometrists in calling on the

Ontario Government to commit to a binding, formal negotiation process—the same way they do with other health care sectors—to ensure quality eye care for everyone in Ontario, and

THAT this motion and a letter of support be distributed to the Ontario Association of Optometrists, the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health Honourable Christine Elliot, the Honourable Greg Rickford, MPP (Kenora—Rainy River), the Honourable Andrea Horwath (NDP Leader, Official Opposition), Steven Del Duca (Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party), all municipalities of the Rainy River District, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA).”

ABSTAIN _____
AYES _____
NAYES _____

CARRIED _____
DEFEATED _____

L. ARMSTRONG _____
D. EWALD _____
B. HELGESON _____
N. IVALL _____
M. KREGER _____
G. PASLOSKI _____
P. WHITE _____



MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR



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Town of Rainy River

July 12, 2021

Hon. Greg Rickford (MPP, Kenora—Rainy River)
Fort Frances Office
Unit 1, 279 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1G8

Dear Mr. Rickford,

RE: Eye Care in Ontario

I am writing to you as our Member of Provincial Parliament because I value access to the quality eye care that optometrists provide – and you need to act now to protect it.

I view their two simple requests as VERY reasonable:

1. Ontario optometrists want to uphold their Charter Right to collective bargaining after being denied negotiations for 30 years.
2. Ontario optometrists should not have to pay out of pocket to examine patients that are insured by OHIP.

As an Ontario mayor, this issue matters to me. Will you help fix OHIP-insured eye care so that my family and my constituents can continue to have access to the quality health care that we deserve before the September 1st deadline to end these services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Deborah Ewald

cc. Ontario Association of Optometrists
Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario
Minister of Health Honourable Christine Elliot
Honourable Andrea Horwath (NDP Leader, Official Opposition)
Steven Del Duca (Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA)
Municipalities of the Rainy River District



in the heart of Ontario's Sunset Country