

Dear Passenger Rail Stakeholders

October 9, 2018

With municipal election day nearing, we felt the need to update you on NEORN's recent activities.

First we wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the formal resolutions of support provided by your community to our advocacy for return of passenger rail in northern Ontario.

By resolution, your community helped us engage the political parties in the June election, with both the NDP and PC political statements endorsing the return of passenger rail to northern Ontario. The election of Doug Ford along with his promises, led us to believe there is a sincere PC policy which will be put in place to make this happen. To date we have not heard his response but expect it will be forthcoming. Hence the attached letter sent last Friday, along with the large package of formal resolutions you had forwarded to the Liberal representatives over the past 2 ½ years. We weren't sure the PCs have seen the resolutions so we reprinted and sent them to various ministries.

I expect your community was involved in some way with the NOMTS (Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Study) which was MNDM's 25-year transportation strategy which basically ignored the opportunity to use existing rail infrastructure to move people, not just freight. This report was completed and forwarded to the Liberal Minister of MNDM before the election but to date has not been released. A tremendous amount of time was invested by individuals and stakeholders along with millions of tax dollars. . . . An investment that surely will produce SOME useful information. Hopefully the ONTC will have an opportunity to be involved with the process planning rail service for the next 25 years, both passenger and freight. They can provide an integrated bus/rail service.



**NORTHERN ONTARIO
PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE
PROMISED**

**Lucille Frith, Neorn Co-Chair
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Victor Fedeli, Minister of Finance
NORTH BAY MAY 3, 2018**

Once the decision to proceed with passenger rail for northern Ontario is made and announced, we expect to hear how the planning process is moving forward, hopefully with Ontario Northland taking the lead.

Our NEORN brochure is included with this mailing – some may have already seen our proposal for an integrated, interconnected, affordable, accessible and environmentally appropriate long-range plan for northeastern Ontario's existing rail infrastructure. THE LOOP as we call it, could eventually connect (the much-anticipated return of) the Toronto/Cochrane passenger rail service with Hearst, Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury – an exciting thought!

NEORN CO CHAIRS: HOWIE WILCOX AND LUCILLE FRITH

MOVE PEOPLE, NOT JUST FREIGHT, BY RAIL
