



West Nipissing Ouest

Joie de vivre

The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ouest
101-225, rue Holditch Street, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1T1

P/T (705) 753-2250 (1-800-263-5359)
F/TC (705) 753-3950

January 15, 2019

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Dear Honourable Premier:

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RESTORE FRANCO-ONTARIO RIGHTS

At its meeting held on December 18, 2018, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution **2018/441**, attached hereto, requesting that the Ontario Provincial Government review its decisions and to restore Franco-Ontario rights.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,

Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Education
French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario
MPP – Timiskaming-Cochrane
MP – Nickel Belt
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO)



**The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing /
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ouest**

DECEMBER 18, 2018

WHEREAS the economic statement presented by Doug Ford's provincial government on November 15th, 2018 abolished the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner and the *Université de l'Ontario français*. Two achievements and pillars of the Franco-Ontarian community are disappearing, a huge setback in that community's future and development.

WHEREAS the francophone presence in Ontario goes back more than 400 years.

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has formally apologized in 2016 for the harm done to the Franco-Ontarian community during the Regulation XVII (1912-1927) crisis.

WHEREAS the Franco-Ontarian community has been calling for the creation of a French-language university in Ontario for decades.

WHEREAS the main recommendation of the 2013 community-led *États généraux sur le postsecondaire en Ontario français* was the creation of a French-language university in Ontario.

WHEREAS Franco-Ontarians have the right to be educated in their own language in institutions that unite them and that the creation of the *Université de l'Ontario français* is intended to meet that objective.

WHEREAS the Franco-Ontarian community has the right to develop the community tools it requires to ensure its sustainability and development.

WHEREAS the French Language Services Act, unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1986, was given quasi constitutional status.

WHEREAS the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner has been working scrupulously and with great professionalism since it was founded in 2007.

WHEREAS the French Language Services Commissioner has been an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario since January 1, 2014.

WHEREAS the independence of the Commissioner, with the power to investigate, provided an oversight of the application of the French Language Services Act and provided a recourse to Franco-Ontarians when this Act was flouted by the government and designated agencies.

WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing is a municipality in the mid-north of Ontario, where 62% of its residents are Francophones, along with a large number of Francophiles. The community has always proudly promoted its rich Francophone heritage.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of West Nipissing urges the Ontario Provincial Government review its decisions which are most disadvantageous for Ontarians and to restore Franco-Ontario rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Education, French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane, MP for Nickel Belt, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) and surrounding municipalities.

AS AMENDED