

April 12, 2022

Dr. Leith Deacon  
Associate Professor, Rural Planning and Development  
School of Environmental Design and Rural Development  
Landscape Architecture, Room 122  
University of Guelph  
SENT BY EMAIL: [leith.deacon@uoguelph.ca](mailto:leith.deacon@uoguelph.ca)

Support for the applicant to Catalyst Grant: CPHO's Report 2021: **Future of Public Health**

Dear Dr. Deacon

I am writing to support your application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for the project Identifying enabling supports and structures to help small and rural communities in Northern Ontario respond to disruption. The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities is the unified voice of Northeastern Ontario, representing and advocating on behalf of 110 cities, towns, and municipalities. Our mission is to improve the economic and social quality of life for all northerners and to ensure the future of our youth.

We are pleased to partner on the project proposed by Dr. Deacon in collaboration with Amanda Mongeon, local public health professional. She has grown up and now lives in Northern Ontario. We appreciate and support this effort to build municipalities' capacity and strengthen ties with other sectors.

Local governments of small and rural communities in Northern Ontario have strengths and needs distinct from their larger counterparts and merit specific attention. This project will have a positive return on investment for health in small Northern Ontario communities, and the knowledge generated through this project will contribute to our local emergency preparedness and COVID-19 recovery work.

Should the project move ahead, FONOM will assist with the recruitment of municipalities, actively support the diffusion of research findings among rural communities in Northern Ontario and assist with the identification and, as appropriate, execution of the following steps identified by the research.

FONOM is eager to participate and assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Danny Whalen  
President

Cc; Sandra Hollingsworth