



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8
www.noma.on.ca
p. 807.683.6662 e. admin@noma.on.ca

June 5, 2024

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for June 3, 2024

Regional Economic Development in Canada

Sarah Lewis & Paul Blais, and Evelyn Paul from Deloitte presented on what is being worked on across Canada in regard to economic development. Collective hope for economic development moving forward in region. Can share presentation on request. Discussed NOMAs Time to Grow Plan and its focus on workforce, infrastructure and leveraging advocacy. Plan to set the framework for what's coming and addressing issues that have been prevalent.

Northwestern Ontario IEHP Program

Dave Johnson provided a presentation on the Northwestern Ontario Internationally Educated Health Professionals (IEHP) Program. The NOMA board to provide a letter of support.

Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus 7 in 7 Regional Housing Project

Peter Emon provided a virtual presentation regarding Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus 7 in 7 Regional Housing Project. NOMA board supported this project and will send a letter of support. Peter noted that this project could be replicable in other areas in Ontario. Can share presentation on request.

Rural Communities Immigration Program

Jamie Taylor from CEDC provided a verbal update on the new program. Two new pilots for rural and francophone minority communities launching Fall 2024, the Rural community immigration pilot (RCIP) and Francophone community immigration pilot (FCIP). There are 2 options: one that's geographic boundary is the whole NW region (with 2-3 CEDC individuals representing the whole region) or Thunder Bay CMA (1-2 individuals which will focus on community integration with Thunder Bay). After 5-year pilot they do plan to make it permanent. Letters of support will be needed to move forward with option 1 for the whole of the NW. However, currently unsure if option 1 is eligible through this pilot. Will determine by next week when hear back from IRCC. NOMA to send letter to IRCC to get clarity and support option 1. Will provide letter of support to municipalities once confirmed.

Fair Funding Model for Northern Ontario Resource-Based Communities

NOMA supported the resolution passed by the City of Timmins regarding Fair Funding Model for Northern Ontario Resource-Based Communities. (attached)

Letter of comment to the Ontario Energy Board

NOMA to send a letter of comment for Enbridge's rate rebasing case: Phase Two to secure access to natural gas for Ontario's future. A copy of this motion to be sent to the Minister Smith of Energy, Minister Pirie of Mines, Minister Greg Rickford of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs, MPPs, and all municipalities. (attached)

Be Spatial 2024 Event

Be Spatial held an event in Thunder Bay on June 4th and were seeking our partnership. Unfortunately, timing did not allow for this to work this year. However, they are interested in partnering in 2025. ED will provide information when it becomes available for next year.

Approval of “Time to Grow” – NOMA Regional Economic Development Plan

NOMA board approved “Time to Grow” – NOMA Regional Economic Development Plan with one minor correction. (Please see and share plan attached.) NOMA to bring forward this plan at the AMO Conference for a multi-minister delegation. The second topic for our AMO multi-minister delegation is to create a framework to ensure unorganized organizations in Northwestern Ontario and across Ontario pay for their share for the services they use. Ex. Greenstone gold mine will be up in May and they do contribute to taxes as they are within greenstone boarders.

NP Billing Numbers

Nurse Practitioner billing is currently part of hospital funding. Most other health care practitioners have a billing number. A discussion occurred and the Board decided to send a resolution in the form of a letter to Minister Sylvia Jones and MP and all municipalities. NOMA to provide a letter to Minister Jones to secure billing numbers for Nurse Practitioners to bill services provided. Letter to be sent to NOMA municipalities to provide letters of support. (Will send out separately once completed.)

Fort Frances Resolution – American Fishing Guides & Anglers in Canadian

Minister committed to working on this at the NOMA Minister Forum.

Executive Director Report:

- NOMA Conference was a tremendous success with over 350 guests in attendance, 132 of which were delegates. We had 22 sponsors, 31 exhibitors, and over 50 presenters. A donation of \$3500 was made to the RFDA in lieu of speaker gifts.
- Have been in discussions with FEDNOR, NOHFC, and others to acquire funding for a regional economic development coordinator for the Northwest in order to facilitate the NOMA regional Economic Development Plan “Time to Grow”.
- Alliance & NOMA met with Minister Smith at the NOMA Conference on April 25th to discuss state of forestry and pulp and paper mills, forest road access, biomass, energy, and caribou. Minister Smith is a strong supporter of the forestry industry and is working to address the loss of the AV Terrace Bay Mill.
- Met with Pollution Probe with Iain Angus. They have received funding through the OEB to develop a framework to inform a variety of groups including municipalities on what they need to consider in order to achieve net zero targets by 2050. Their focus is rural and remote communities in Ontario and low carbon innovations. Over the next year they plan to meet with communities and stakeholders to inform the work and release the framework June 10th, 2025. ED will assist them to coordinate a municipal workshop in the North. A NOMA rep to also sit on their advisory committee that will meet 2-3 times for approx. an hour.
- Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) is recruiting potential members to submit a nomination to join the IESO’s Strategic Advisory Committee. The IESO’s Strategic Advisory Committee provides appointed representatives with the opportunity to provide timely advice and feedback to our Board of Directors and Executive Leadership Team on a wide variety of topics and issues related to the current and future state of Ontario’s electricity system, as well as the energy transition.

Notable Meetings Attended:

- ED and President attended OFIA Conference
- President attended FONOM conference and presented a NOMA update.
- NOMA Learning Morning
- Meetings with NOMA Learning Morning presenters
- NWMO Municipal Forum
- IESO Long Term 2 RFP Meeting
- Met to finalize Economic Development with comments.
- Smart Specialization Group - Thunder Bay Smart Specialization Project – a place based approach to regional sustainable economic growth. Proving successful strategy in Sweden. Presentation attached.
- CRIBE Way Forward for Northwestern Ontario Economic Development tool.
- Pollution Probe

Strategic Plan Report:

4. Updates were made to the Time to Grow: A Regional Economic Plan for Northwestern Ontario 2025-2035 according to feedback provided by Municipalities and other stakeholders. A document outlining the changes made was attached separately.

5. Annual FIR data collection was updated with information available for Year 2023.

8. Have updated the website with additional funding opportunities including:

- The Forest Biomass Program is now live for a new round of application intake. EN: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-biomass-program>
- Applications for the 2024-25 Enabling Change Program are [open now](#) until June 27, 2024
- 2024 [Grid Innovation Fund](#) - invest \$9.5 million to support projects that will make the province's electricity system more efficient - Applications for funding open May 2024.

9. The Modernization Project Inventory was added to the website under Additional Resources.

15. List of Cost-sharing Initiatives in Northwestern Ontario was created and uploaded to the website under Additional Resources.

21. The Learning Morning took place on May 29th, 2024. The presentations included:

- Cybersecurity Vendor Management - A leadership and management Perspective - Presented by: Randy Purse, Senior Advisor, Cybersecurity Training and Education, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst
- Bill 23 and the New Provincial Policy Statement 2024 - Presented by: Chantelle Bryson, Associate, Potestio Law
- NOMA Strategic Plan Activities - Presented by: Katia Borjas, Strategic Plan Intern, NOMA
- Cultivating Career Conversations: Empowerment Leads to Engagement and Growth - Presented by: Louise Neil, B.Sc, ACC, Career Engagement & Development, ICF Certified Career & Leadership Coach
- Pass the Prompt Workshops - Presented by: Jessy Plante
- Rural Housing Information System - Making Rural and Northern Data Accessible -Presented by: Kezia Cowtan, Project Manager, Rural Ontario Institute (Note: They were successful in their funding application and will be hosting a workshop in early July to gather housing information.)
- Mobilizing your Most Powerful Weapon - Presented by: Jordan Hudyma, Campaign Strategist, Crestview Strategy

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – Rick Dumas reported they have a meeting coming up June 15th in Dorion to review their Strategic Plan.

KDMA – Fred Mota reported they want to move forward a land ambulance resolution. Discussed unorganized paying into long-term care.

RRDMA – Doug Hartnell reported they had a meeting on May 15th. They continue to have conversation with riverside healthcare. Looking to get workers to come work in health care in the community.

Issue Tracker Updates:

OMPF – Nothing to Report

Policing Costs – Nothing to Report

Conservation Lands – These lands are not paying tax, yet they get all the benefits. ED to Send letter to Graydon Smith.

Mining – Fred Mota reported Kinross is very active. The new bridge will be a game changer and increase traffic significantly. NORDS funding ends 18-20 months. A few municipalities are revenue sharing committed.

Nuclear Waste Management Org – Kevin Kahoot reported on attending the municipal forum on May 15th. Mainly a refresher and welcoming new individuals.

Railway – Doug Hartnell reported that nothing has moved forward on this, and government does not plan to change the taxation rate. Will not be moving forward with taxation piece but keeping the maintenance costs aspect on the tracker.

NOSM: Physician/Nursing Recruitment – Nothing to Report

Energy – Jim Vezina reported CVNW has dissolved. Jim had meeting with Lise Vaugeois to explain energy issues in the region.

Housing – Kristen Oliver reported Canada and Ontario have created a joint housing strategy.

Fire/EMS/Police – Eric Pietsch to take lead on newly added tracker item.

The next NOMA Board meeting takes place August 18, 2024, in Ottawa, Ontario.

Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any NOMA matters.

Sincerely,



Andrea Strawson
Executive Director of NOMA
(807) 683-6662
admin@noma.on.ca