



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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October 10, 2024

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for September 25, 2024

By-Laws to replace Constitution: Ronald Tuy provided an overview of the changes and outlined the changes to the not-for-profit act. Board deferred approval of by-law to special meeting to take place October 17th.

FEDNOR – Economic Development Plan Analysis: Lucie Perrault presented on the areas in which FEDNOR can help NOMA executive the goals outlined in our Time to Grow Regional Economic Development Plan. Asked if FEDNOR could support NOMA members to receive housing funding as most Northern Municipalities were not successful with the Housing development fund. FEDNOR committed to bringing forward anything that would benefit the north so they can advocate for NOMA issues at the tables FEDNOR is part of. A discussion occurred regarding funding and how NOHFC funds grown dramatically but FEDNOR fund has not grown significantly. FEDNOR has not been successful at growing funds yet but continue to advocate. A comment made that seeking allocations for immigrants is good but also need funding for programs that will encourage immigrants to stay. A discussion occurred for the need to advocate for an alternate funding formula. Per capita is often the formula used for fairness, but that formula does not work for the north. Discussed the serious issue of airport loss and the need to find creative solutions.

MND & NOHFC – Economic Development Plan Analysis: Ryan Lipcsei and Brady Lucas presented on how to navigate through the goals from a provincial perspective. They reached out to respective ministries to have them outline how they can help and provided a contact person to follow up with. An excel template was provided to note potential provincial alignment, Provincial legislation, and provincial contact.

Water/Wastewater Consultation: Judy Dezell consulted with NOMA Board to determine from a business perspective if should create a utility to provide water and wastewater services. The 2 governance structures to be considered include joint municipal services board or a joint municipal services corporation. This would be voluntary to participate in model. If feel your utility is already efficient you do not have to commit to this model. Ability to leverage money at a larger scale. Biggest difference in model currently existing would mainly be scale. Would go to tender for multiple projects vs individually. Small municipalities have been most interested thus far. Red Rock committed to participate in the discussion for a small municipal perspective. Fully funded project turned out to be quite expensive as had to take out a loan and pay interest to pay huge bills that municipality couldn't fund upfront. Q - How would this work with significant distances between communities with water and wastewater systems? Could be a factor in terms of efficiency but panel is looking into it.

Letter of Support ONTC: The NOMA Board to provide a letter of support to ONTC in support of expanding the motor bus service in Northwestern Ontario.

(Please add to next council agenda to consider supporting – letter attached.)

Letter of Support Ontario Immigration Nominee Program: The NOMA Board to provide a letter of support to allocate 3000 spots in OINP to Northern Ontario.

(Please add to next council agenda to consider supporting – letter attached.)

2025 Levy Population Calculation: Board agreed to wait for MPAC assessment to adjust the population numbers used for the levy calculation. Board to finalize 2025 levy at November meeting.

Nieuport Aviation Letter of Support/Resolution: The NOMA Board to provide a letter of support and resolution to Nieuport Aviation in support of expanding Billy Bishop Airport. **(Please add to next council agenda to consider supporting – letter and resolution attached.)**

Paramedic Services: The NOMA Board to provide a letter to Ministry of Health regarding critical shortage of paramedic services in Northwestern Ontario.

(Please add to next council agenda to consider supporting – letter to follow)

Executive Director Report:

- Met with PA Patrice Barnes (MLITSD), PA Zee Hamid (MOF), NDP, and Liberals at the AMO Conference to discuss our Regional Economic Development Plan “Time to Grow”, Unorganized Areas Taxation Reform, and ONIP allocations for the North. There was no commitment to action beyond looking further into our requests.
- ED submitted Phase 1 application to FEDNOR for funding for Regional Economic Development Coordinator.
- Sent congratulation letter in response to cabinet changes
- Deposited funds from CVNW in response to dissolving the organization
- ED to attend AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing

Notable Meetings Attended:

- Attended Minister Lecce Energy Exchange Chat at AMO Conference
- Met with Lucie Perrault to discuss Time to Grow funding for Coordinator Position
- Matawa FN to discuss how can work together on Time to Grow plan
- FEDNOR Consultation on Tourism
- Leaders Luncheon with John Collins
- Nieuport Aviation to discuss Billy Bishop Airport
- IAWG – discussed Impact Assessment Agency and NWMO Regulatory Affairs
- Met with Olivia Auriat with Council of Universities (COU) to discuss partnership opportunities

Strategic Plan Report:

4. Been in discussions with NOHFC, MND, FEDNOR, and others regarding our Time to Grow: A Regional Economic Plan for Northwestern Ontario 2025-2035.

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

1. Ontario's Indigenous Economic Development Fund and Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program.
2. Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund
3. Expression of Interest (EOI) for the new adult hospice beds. October 18, 2024.

4. Community Emergency Preparedness Grant. Deadline **October 31, 2024 5pm**.
 5. flood hazard identification and mapping
 6. Ontario's action plan to end gender-based violence: Community call for proposals | ontario.ca deadline for proposals is **October 11, 2024 at 5pm**
 7. Housing-Enabling Core Servicing funding to help municipalities build, maintain and repair municipal roads, bridges and culverts to unlock new housing.
12. Nikita Cava supplied remuneration details for TBDML members.
21. Next Learning morning to take place via zoom on November 20, 2024, from 9:30 – 11:30am. Presenters as follows: (Agenda and meeting link sent separately via email)
1. **Multi Variable Prioritization Matrix** - Presented by: Alisha McLean, National Sales Director, Roth IAMS
 2. **Leveraging Carbon Credit Opportunities for Municipalities: Navigating the Clean Fuel Regulations and Offset Systems** - Presented by: Koorosh Behrang, Carbon Market Analyst, Clear Blue Markets
 3. **Municipal Cost Reduction Experts** - Presented by: Neil Brady, Strategic-Partner, Schooley-Mitchell
 4. **Addressing Workforce Challenges: Exploring the Role of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program in Workforce Development** - Presented by: Meaghan Edwards, Program Advisor, Immigration Promotion and Employer Outreach Unit, Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – Rick Dumas reported they met September 24th to review Nikita Cava's contract and the Strategic Plan. Going to the board to approve strategic plan on October 5th. Discussing spring AGM coming up.

KDMA – Fred Mota reported they discussed unorganized taxation reform and EMS seeking support to advance recruitment of paramedics. DoKURA sent an email outlining their concerns with the unorganized areas taxation reform report NOMA submitted to government at AMO Conference. We will put on agenda in November to discuss. ED to provide response to note when it will be discussed.

RRDMA – Doug Hartnell reported at their meeting they changed by-law to accommodate addition of Sioux-Lookout Nestor Falls. Discussed closing of ambulance service and resignation of doctors. President of DDSAB made presentation.

Issue Tracker Updates:

Mining - Rick Dumas stated there was no movement on the tailing ponds. NORDS is coming to an end next year but needs to supplement that fund to keep up with infrastructure needs. Discussed increasing taxation on aggregate and a protest from Grassy Narrows is currently impacting Kinross.

Nuclear Waste Management Org – ED reported the next NWMO municipal forum to take place on December 3rd at which time a site location should be determined. Thunder bay put a resolution stating they do not support proximity principal transportation of the nuclear waste.

Railway – Doug Hartnell reported they have been told it will not be looked at.

NOSM: Physician/Nursing Recruitment – Wendy Brunetta reported still using locums. Fred Mota outlined a situation where the locum positions are not being filled as locum doctors are waiting until the money is increased in desperation as the hospital is facing an ER closure. Locums are being secured once wage increased. On the east coast offering a \$400,000 recruiting bonus for doctors. Still need incentives to get doctors to come and stay

in the North. Locums is a great deal so many do not want a permanent position as they are making a lot of money and remain mobile.

Energy – Jim Vezina reported he attended IESO meeting to discuss energy transition and ensure adequate supply.

The next NOMA Board meeting takes place November 27, 2024, in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Strawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Andrea Strawson
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