



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

October 10, 2024

Alan Spacek
Board Chair
Ontario Northland Transportation Commission
555 Oak St East
North Bay, ON P1B 8E3

Dear Board Chair Spacek:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), I am writing to express our strong support for Ontario Northland Transportation Commission's (ONTC) proposed expansion of motor coach services in Northwestern Ontario, including connections to the Winnipeg airport, the Thunder Bay airport, and west of Hearst through Nipigon and surrounding communities. This expansion aligns closely with NOMA's strategic priorities and the broader transportation objectives of the Ministry of Transportation and the Government of Ontario.

NOMA would also like to see a secondary bus route for both highway 11 and 17 to increase efficiency and reliability on this main transportation corridor. Additionally, we strongly encourage ONTC and the provincial government to expand ONTC's motor coach services to include North to South routes to connect those communities (such as Red Lake, Ear Falls, Sioux Lookout, among others) to highway 11 and 17. These additions would greatly enhance transportation connection within our region.

NOMA's Economic Development Plan "Time to Grow" recognizes that northern transportation is essential for the success of our region and all of Ontario. Enhancing transportation availability by introducing these new routes, we can significantly improve connectivity, support economic growth, and ensure that our communities remain accessible. This expansion also aligns with the Ministry of Transportation's ongoing efforts with Ontario's highway programs to improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of our transportation network. NOMA recognizes how expanding motor coach services fits with the province's commitment to enhancing northern highways, ensuring residents and businesses have the transportation links they need.

In conclusion, NOMA strongly supports Ontario Northland's proposal to expand motor coach services in Northwestern Ontario. We urge the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission and the provincial government to prioritize this expansion and our outlined suggestions to better serve our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Landry

Wendy Landry
President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
Mayor, Municipality of Shuniah

Cc:

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
MPP Greg Rickford, (Kenora – Rainy River)
MPP Kevin Holland (Thunder Bay - Atikokan)
MPP Lise Vaugeois (Thunder Bay - Superior North)
All member municipalities CAOs and Clerks