



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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February 28, 2022

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for February 23, 2022

New Firefighter Standards

NOMA Board discussed the new proposed standards and will send a letter to Solicitor General Jones to outline our concerns, mainly the implications this may have to small municipalities with volunteer and composite fire services. NOMA will request a meeting with Solicitor Jones to discuss our concerns.

NPI Immigration Portal

NOMA Board discussed the potential of taking over responsibility of the immigration Portal currently hosted by the City of Thunder Bay. NPI has proposed to take responsibility for all costs over the next 3 years. The City of Thunder Bay supports NOMA taking over the Immigration Portal. The Board would like more information and the ED will set up a meeting with NPI to discuss this further.

NOMA Board meetings are scheduled as follows:

April 27th 11am to 1pm (CST) – in person Fort Frances
June 22nd 9:30am to 12:30pm (EST) – in person Thunder Bay
August 12th 9:30am-12:30pm (EST) – virtual
October 5th 9:30am-12:30pm (EST) in person Thunder Bay
November 23rd 9:30am-12:30pm (EST) in person Thunder Bay

NOMA Conference

The NOMA Board has decided on Maverick Group for our AV services as they are able to host an interactive hybrid event. In the event Covid restrictions change we will be able to respond and still move forward without any interruptions to our scheduled conference. Registration will open by Monday February 28th.

Executive Director Position

The Board has recognized the increase in time requirements for the ED position. The Board has decided to make the ED position fulltime and as such has increased the hours per week from 32 to 35 and increased the salary \$10,000 (all inclusive to include source deductions).

Joint and Several Resolution to support AMO

NOMA will submit a letter to support AMO in their Joint and Several Resolution.

NOSM Letter of Support

NOMA will supply a letter to NOSM to endorse NOSM University's application to The Council of Ontario Universities.

LU Partnership

The ED provided the NOMA Board with options for facilitating the completion of the Strategic Plan initiatives. NOMA is considering a partnership with Lakehead University to recruit a student to help with some of the Strategic Plan initiatives over the next 5 years.

Bill 59

NOMA will submit a letter to support Bill 59 "Making Northern Ontario Highways Safer Act, 2021"

ERO Posting 019-4995 re Caribou

NOMA will submit comments to the ERO Posting 019-4995 Conservation Agreement for Boreal Caribou in Ontario to ensure any changes do not affect forestry and mining operations in Northwestern Ontario. We will also submit a letter to Minister Piccini to support OFIA comments to this ERO Posting.

We The Nuclear Free North

This Public Interest Group requested our contact list for municipalities in our membership. NOMA will decline their request as we do not have permission from all municipalities to share this information regardless of this information being available on municipal websites. The ED will bring forward a policy amendment to ensure the language in our policies is very clear to show what our organizations mandate is to avoid these requests in the future.

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – Their AGM is March 24/25th.

KDMA – Fred Mota reported they had AGM on January 19/20th virtually. Had resolutions come out of their AGM that will be forwarded to ED for NOMA AGM such as reducing OPP costs, Immigration pilot, housing etc.

RRDMA – Deb Ewald reported AGM is January 15th and some issues discussed include lack of any rest stops along highway and serious doctor shortage.

Executive Director Report:

- NOMA participated in a Multi-Minister Delegation and a joint delegation with FONOM & NOSDA regarding Mental Health, Addictions, and Homelessness at the ROMA Conference in January.
- NOMA has formed a partnership with IPAC.
- NOMA participated in a roundtable discussion with Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development Gudie Hutchings to discuss economic development opportunities and concerns in the region.
- NOMA participated in a meeting with PA Sandhu to discuss OCIF and AMP.
- Mental Health Resources and Orange shirt day resources were added to the NOMA website.

Issue Tracker Updates:

NWMO: Jason Young and Andrea Strawson are the new NWMO reps. Next meeting is March 17th.

Railway Taxation: The government was not interested in pursuing the taxation issue. A discussion occurred regarding railway crossings and the cost to municipalities. We will revise this tracker to remove taxation and move forward with railway issues. NOMA will start a taskforce to look into railway issues and ED will look into whether NPI could do some research on this for us.

The Next NOMA Board meeting will take place on April 27th in Fort Frances. A Special NOMA Board meeting will take place on March 23rd to adopt the Strategic Plan.

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

Sincerely,



Andrea Strawson
Executive Director of NOMA
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