



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
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June 27, 2023

Attention: Mayor and Council

### **NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for June 20, 2023**

MTO Off-Road Vehicle Proposed Changes: NOMA attended meeting with MTO. There is concern over the age limit increase from 16 to 18. This would have consequences especially in rural areas in regard to farming, hunting, etc. NOMA will provide feedback to note that the age limit should remain at 16 and the need for licensing (similar to boating or snowmobiling).

MTO - Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act: NOMA attended meeting with MTO. A discussion occurred regarding the current shortage and how companies often have a preferred towing company and will have companies from southern Ontario come to tow in Northern Ontario costing more money and time to solving the issue.

Caribou: Information sessions to be held June 27 & June 28 from 10am-12pm. NOMA have representatives present. Another session to occur July 19 & 24 that NOMA will attend.

School Bus Stop Arm Resolution: NOMA will first advocate to government for a processing centre to process and convict offenders as there are currently none in the region. We cannot support this resolution at this time as we need an enforcement plan first.

Comparative Analysis of Labour Market Needs: NOMA will participate in interview to outline the opportunities and challenges in the labour market. A discussion occurred regarding hiring professionals and leaders is challenging and we are at a competitive disadvantage in the North. ED to send letter to Minister Bethlenfalvy to ask for the sunshine list minimum to match inflation and 2023 average wages between \$125K to \$150K.

O'Canada Lyrics: A discussion occurred to advocate to amend lyrics of O'Canada to "our home on native land" vs "our home and native land". It was concluded that NOMA will not move forward with this but rather we leave it to individual municipalities to determine if they would like to move forward.

Virtual option for municipalities to meet with Ministers: Small and rural municipalities would benefit from a virtual option to attend minister meetings at conferences as these municipalities often cannot afford to have all, if any, elected officials attend. ED will send a letter to Minister Clark to request a virtual option for upcoming conferences.

### **Municipal Association/League Updates:**

TBDML – Had meeting in Red Rock. Discussed follow-up from March AGM and new strategic plan to reinvigorate the association. Two focus items will be highway safety, maintenance, and rest stops and health care. A discussion occurred regarding lack of visibility for flag person on

highways. A discussion occurred on this and the MTO regulations and the need for those regulations to be updated.

KDMA – Virtual Conference to occur July 27<sup>th</sup>. A discussion occurred regarding relevance and revitalization of the associations and ensuring that municipalities, especially smaller ones, attend the association AGM's and NOMA Conference.

RRDMA – Their AGM was May 17<sup>th</sup>. At AGM it was moved to allocate 20% roughly \$2500 to doctor recruitment. A discussion occurred regarding options for smaller municipalities to attend conference. ED will provide Board with options and scenarios for Board member compensation to attend conference.

### **Strategic Plan Report:**

- Katia Borjas was selected as the new Strategic Plan Intern. She began on June 12<sup>th</sup> and spent the week reviewing relevant information including website(s), correspondence, articles, organizations etc. Her first task is to plan the primer that will be included on the NOMA website to educate people on what makes Northwestern Ontario unique and what each community has to offer. Katia will connect with all municipalities across the region to obtain information on their community.
- An asset Management working group will be developed to assist Intern with analyzing FIR and asset management data to be gathered from all municipalities across region.
- Katia Borjas will begin work on collecting asset management information from municipalities. A working group will be created to assist with analyzing the data.
- Current funding/grant opportunities updated on NOMA website under Resource tab.
- Student Councillor Policy example provided to all municipalities.

### **Executive Director Report:**

- Wendy Landry and ED attended OFIA & FONOM Conferences.
- Hosted NOMA orientation for all new board members.
- The learning morning took place May 31<sup>st</sup> with LAS, OTF, NOSM, and Pallet Shelters (a transitional housing solution). Videos are on YouTube channel. Our next learning morning is tentatively scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Sent letter to Minister Guilbeault re caribou.
- Joint letter with FONOM & NOSDA sent in regard to employment services.
- Met with TBDML ED to discuss next year AGM, levy, leagues etc.
- Met with Executive Directors of associations to discuss a strategy to increase communication and collaboration among the leagues.
- A donation of \$3000 made to RFDA on behalf of speakers from conference.
- Pictures from conference, OFIA, and FONOM etc. were added to the photo gallery on the website.
- Submitted AMO delegation meeting request for NOMA and jointly with FONOM & NOSDA

### **Issue Tracker Updates:**

**Mining:** Town of Marathon discussed tailing ponds with MPAC. New Gold announced they will be complete in 2031.

**NWMO:** Next meeting is September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Many mayors were invited to meet in Niagara Falls after AMO Conference.

**Railway:** Doug Hartnell spoke with Kevin Holland re railway consultation. ED to send a letter to Minister Clark for an update on railway roundtable.

**NOSM: Physician/Nursing Recruitment:** Report was released.

**Energy** – Jim Vezina noted the task force has changed name to Land Use task force. They are looking at Bill 97 submission. They're looking for elected officials or community members that would like to be on a video to promote east-west tie line.

The next NOMA Board meeting will take place on August 20, 2023, in London, 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, flowing style.

Andrea Strawson  
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