



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

April 04, 2023

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for March 22, 2023

Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force: All meetings and draft reports are completed, and the final report is currently being circulated to the Board and will go to Minister shortly. Upon Minister review, it will be available to everyone. Confirmed all drivers training in western Canada is consistent. However, Ontario and all to the east provinces are not consistent. Requested consultation with Northwestern Ontario specifically. Discussed a number of issues including road closures and the need for truck training in all conditions. NOMA is creating a database of videos showcasing Northern Ontario Road conditions and driving incidents to help people understanding what roads are like here. **Please submit any videos to Andrea Strawson.**

NOMA Conference: Have 183 registered. All municipalities represented except SNNF. An up-to-date agenda is available on the NOMA website and attached to email. We have all presenters and 28 exhibitors confirmed.

***Please contact Andrea Strawson if your municipality would like to donate a prize to the NOMA conference.**

OGRA Advocacy Issues: Scott Butler provided presentation. Rural and Northern road safety are overexposed to fatalities, and he outlined ways to rectify this. He discussed Road safety auditing process to determine the needs. This will be first road safety auditing guidelines for all roads in Ontario. Looking to develop 3-year pilot program. This program has seen an 80% reduction in fatalities after implementation in other areas.

MLITSD - Service System Managers: Fern Dominelli and Michelle Boileau made a presentation on employment service transformation. The funding will be changing Jan 1, 2025, and Northwestern Ontario is estimated to lose \$2,046,000. This change will result in Northern Ontario having only 2 service managers and only 15 across the province. This will not work in Northwestern Ontario. NOMA will send a letter to Minister Monte McNaughton and PA Holland.

Caribou: Caribou Roundtable session at Lakehead University announced \$29 million in funding for caribou conservation. Minister Picinni informed us he will be back in April to Thunder Bay for further discussions and he will invite Guilbeault to join. NOMA will send letter to Minister Guilbeault to express our concerns and encourage a range boundary review.

NOMA adopted resolution 2023-01: A Call to Provincial government to End Homelessness in Ontario. **NOMA requests municipalities support this resolution and send to government.**

Rapid Housing Initiative issues impacting Northwestern Ontario: Discovered through this initiative that Northwestern Ontario municipalities are no longer considered the North. Therefore, municipalities automatically lose 25% marks on application meaning they are only able to secure 75% max with a perfect application. This will significantly affect housing initiatives moving forward in our region. The North is now defined as northern Canada (Yukon etc.) or indigenous communities in Northern Ontario. NOMA will send letter to CMHC, MMAH, Federal government, Local MPs, and all municipalities to advocate on this issue. **NOMA requests municipalities to pass resolution and send to government.**

Black Ash Recovery: NOMA will investigate the plan created by the provincial government.

Policy Amendment: Policy A004: Travelling and the payment of expenses was amended. A notable change is mileage rate when travelling by vehicle was increased to \$.68/km.

Proposed Amendments to Ontario Professional Geoscientists Act: NOMA will send letter of support of proposed changes.

Amendments to the Mining Act: NOMA is concerned over the proposed amendments to the Mining Act, specifically giving ultimate power to the Minister. We have faith in the current Minister of Mines, but we may not have the same feelings towards the next minister. In the North, the issue is the IESO not getting electricity to the mines and the delivery fees they charge and not the EA. NOMA will comment on ERO posting and send to Minister outlining our concerns.

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – AGM March 23, 2023.

KDMA – Their AGM will take place April 25th. Turnover rate high for region.

RRDMA – Doug Hartnell to replace Deb Ewald as RRDMA President. Lisa Teeple is new representative.

Executive Director Report:

- NOMA, FONOM, NOSDA will continue to partner with NPI to complete a 3rd research paper looking into 3 more recommended strategies to address Mental Health, Addictions, and Homelessness in Northern Ontario.
- NOMA met with Ministers at ROMA to discuss Railway, Crown land for housing, immigration pilot program, and Northern Ontario Road Safety, Management, and rest stops. Government committed to conducting consultation with municipalities on railway costs and making the immigration pilot program permanent and expanding the program. We also participated in joint meeting with FONOM and NOSDA on mental health, addiction, and homelessness.
- Submitted pre-budget responses to both provincial and federal budgets.
- The proposed boundary changes from the Federal boundaries commission meeting were amended and Northwestern Ontario retained our seats.
- Floating Accommodation Regulation meeting. As a result of the consultation the government amended the regulation to remove the change from 21 to 7 days allowed camping and point regarding making camping on water rules the same as on public lands among others.
- Nominations for President and VP to be accepted until April 20, 2023, at 9am. Nominations received from Wendy Landry and Fred Mota for current positions.
- NOMA president will attend OFIA and FONOM conferences.

- NOMA will be hosting our 3rd Learning Morning tentatively on May 31st (EST) via zoom.
- NOHFC approved \$35,000 intern application and a job ad has been posted on Indeed, LinkedIn, Lakehead University, and Confederation College. Applications will be accepted until April 28th with an expected start date of June 5th, 2023.
- Current funding/grant opportunities updated on NOMA website under Resource tab.

Issue Tracker Updates:

NWMO: Next meeting is April 20, 2023. in Toronto.

Railway: Minister committed to consult with municipalities and review the funding formula.

NOSM: Physician/Nursing Recruitment: Nurses (RN, RPN, Burse Practitioners) are resigning and going to contractors as they are making twice as much money.

Energy – Jim Vezina continues discussions on priorities related to electrification (challenges and opportunities), core need for energy planning and use of new energy technologies, info on gaps and opportunities to reduce gaps and increase coordination, examples of challenges and successes using immerging technologies.

The next NOMA Board meeting will take place on April 25, 2023, in Thunder Bay.

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