FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Sunday, January 21, 2024 Toronto Hilton Toronto, Ontario

Present

- D. Whalen, President
- D. Plourde, 1st Vice President
- L. Watson, 2nd Vice President
- A. MacNevin, Director
- M. Horsfield, Director
- S. Hollingsworth, Director
- J. Curley, Director

Zoom

- L. Carleton, Director
- R. Carrier, Director
- M. Signoretti (Sudbury alternate)

Regrets

- T. Kelly, Director
- P. Lefebvre, Director

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

FONOM Board Meeting

January 21, 2024

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3.02 pm.

1.0 Welcome and President's Report

- 14 December AMO Executive meeting
- 15 December Ontario Medical Officer of Health
- While it has been quiet over the holiday I was able to have some discussions with individuals from the trucking industry of the current state of safety across the north.
- I will be meeting in person with the various groups at their schedules allow early in 2024.
- I have also had lengthy discussions with retired and current front line officers regarding Bail Reform. We need to have our membership any anyone who will listen apply pressure on the federal government to complete the steps for Bill C48 and bring these changes into effect.
- I had a lengthy and interesting discussion with MOH and staff from his office. The virtual meeting was held under my NDA with the province.
- I looked back over my FONOM meetings and work for 2023 and reached out to many of those that I had contact with. Just to wish them a good 2024 and to keep FONOM in their minds as they plan 2024.

It was **MOVED** by **M. Signoretti, SECONDED** by **R. Carrier**, that the President's Report be received.

MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was **MOVED** by **L. Watson**, **SECONDED** by **A. MacNevin** that the Agenda be approved with additions.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations - none

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE December 8, 2023 BOARD MEETING

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley SECONDED** by **S. Hollingsworth** that the Minutes be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 D. Whalen led the discussion regarding the highway conditions and the numerous closures on Highway 11 and 17. Lynn Watson shared the concern with the 3 ½ day closure near Wawa. This occurrence caused many health and safety problems and impacted local, provincial, and national commerce. Also shared was the level of communication with stranded individuals, trucking firms, and communities. The Board would like to hear from the MTO on possible strategies for improved information sharing. M. Bain was asked to contact the Ministry to discuss the issue.

The Board also discussed Connecting Link, appreciation of the funding, and the amount should be increased to reflect contracted costs in the north. But suggest that the Province be wholly responsible for the Trans Canada Highways (11 & 17) that dissect our communities.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Resolution Received – Concerns with Floating Accommodations Township of Nipissing

Received for Information following a discussion by the Board.

6.2 Resolutions Received – Clarify the definition of Employer

City of Sudbury Conmee Township

Township of St. Joseph Township of Larder Lake

Following a discussion by the Board.

It was MOVED by L. Watson and SECONDED by S. Hollingsworth that

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

6.3 Resolutions Received – Legislation for Notice of Meetings

City of North Bay Town of Kirkland Lake

6.4 Resolution Received – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration and Management Township of Hornepayne

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

It was MOVED by **D. Plourde**, **SECONDED** by **M. Horsfield** all the correspondence items are received for information purposes.

- 7.1 Resolution Received Support for Living Income
- 7.2 Resolution Received Conservation Officers reclassified as Enforcement Officers
- 7.3 Resolutions & Letters Received Support for RNIP Program
- 7.4 Resolutions Received Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence
- 7.5 Resolutions Received Fixing the Long-Term Care Act
- 7.6 Resolution Received Support for an increase to NOSM Base funding
- 7.7 Resolution Received Accident and Abandon Tow Request
- 7.8 Resolution Received Project Echo
- 7.9 Resolution Received CP Rail stop piling railroad ties
- 7.10 Slide Deck Strengthening Public Health
- 7.11 Email sent illegal to pass on Two Solid Yellow Lines
- 7.12 Invitations Sent 2024 FONOM Conference

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8.1 It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley, SECONDED** by **D. Plourde** that the Board received the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 8*) for December 2023.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.2 It was **MOVED** by **S. Hollingsworth, SECONDED** by, **L. Watson** that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 9*) ending January 8, 2024

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain shared with the Board for the meeting schedule for the Delegations during ROMA. (*Attached pages 10-18*)
- 8.4 M. Bain shared that the planning is well underway for the Conference, and he asked that the Board members provide topics of topics they would like to hear. He also mentioned that the Board wished to meet participants in person but noted that most meetings have had virtual attendees. Noting that virtual may be something we have to work with, Mac recommended the purchase of an Owl communication tool. Following a discussion, the Board asked mac to proceed with the purchase.
- M. Bain presented the draft 2024-2025 to the Board (*see attached page 19*).
 The Board had a discussion on the proposed Budget.
 It was MOVED by A. MacNevin, SECONDED by, D. Plourde that the Board approved the 2024-2025 Annual Budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

City of Greater Sudbury

M. Signoretti shared that the City is proceeding with a Revitalization of the Downtown, which includes several buildings coming down. He noted that this City and its development community are well on their way to meeting the 500 new province residence commitment. Also, municipal speed enforcement will begin, with the hope of addressing safety issues across the City.

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton shared that short-term rentals are still causing issues and, therefore, lots of discussion. Also, the Parry Sound Municipal Association meets again in spring.

City of North Bay

M. Horsfield noted that Chief Tod has announced his retirement as of March and that a search is presently underway. She said that work is being done to address the shortage of childcare spaces in the District. Also, noting that the Federal Housing Applications are onerous. Maggie shared that staff recruitment continues to be an issue as North Bay competes against the mining industry pay scale.

District of Sudbury

R. Carrier shared that Insurance Premiums significantly impacted Insurance for French River and all agencies within the budget. Also, grants previously aided transportation accessibility within the region have been discontinued. If the Municipality continued the service, it would mean a one percent increase in the budget. The program will be discontinued in twelve months unless new funding is found. Renée noted that they now have an enforcement Bylaw to deal with trailers on residential properties.

District of Algoma

L. Watson noted that the Algoma Municipal Association is looking for a new Executive Director. The communities in Algoma are concerned with winter highway closures, noting the three-and-half days Wawa was insulated. Lynn mentioned some of the issues that the board should consider, such as the fact that many of these vehicles are on the highways in unincorporated areas; there is no fuel, no restrooms, no restaurants, and no turnarounds.

City of Timmins

J. Curley shared that the city is looking for a new Chief of police while dealing with a shortage of front-line officers. Noting that highway closures also impact Timmins, they are looking for funding for municipal roads. The city is no longer funding the safe injection site, but the hospital will operate it until March 31st, 2024.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS – continued

City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingsworth shared her concern about the Algoma Steel accident. She was relieved that no one was injured but was concerned about the impact on the St. Mary's River. Sandra noted that the city has a new CAO, Tom Baird. Also, a new waterfront study has started, with an eye to economic development, but to include new beach washrooms and accessible swimming aids. She also noted that Algoma and Sault College are quite concerned with the two-year immigration cap.

District of Manitoulin

A. MacNevin noted that the Island Hospitals are advocating for sustainable funding to cover the new costs for agency nurses and added doctor locums. The hospital also recommends that the Ministry of Health review and update the existing Locum Agreements to recognize the current economic situation.

District of Timiskaming

D. Whalen noted that during his time in municipal government, it is official that he has seen it all. Latchford recently had a one-armed monkey escape its habitat and bite a resident. Danny was asked who legislates exotic animals, and it turns out Municipalities do, so Latchford is now considering a Bylaw..

District of Cochrane

In the interest of time, None provided.

District of Nipissing

None provided.

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS - None

11:0 IN CAMERA

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley, SECONDED** by, **L. Carleton** that the Board move In Camera to discuss a personal matter at 4:28 pm.

MOTION CARRIED.

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley, SECONDED** by, **L. Carleton** that the Board move out of In Camera and support the January 2024 Executive Director Performance Review presented at 4:43 pm.

MOTION CARRIED.

12.0 NEXT MEETING - West Nipissing, Ontario on Friday, March 15th, at 8:30 am13.0 ADJOURNMENT at 4:48 pm

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF Sunday, January 21, 2024

It was **MOVED** by **J. Curley SECONDED** by **L. Watson** that the Minutes be accepted as presented on March 15th, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

— President Danny Whalen

Financial Report ending January 8th, 2024

Date	Description	Cheque	Amount
2023-12-08	Terry Kelly - Board	483	\$ 808.00
2023-12-08	Alan MacNevin - Board	484	\$ 300.00
2023-12-08	John Curley - Board	485	\$ 1,079.00
2023-12-08	Sandra Hollingsworth - Board	486	\$ 705.68
2023-12-08	Maggie Horsfield - Board, Audit * Board	487	\$ 1,187.28
2023-12-08	Lynn Watson - Board	488	\$ 817.20
2023-12-08	Dave Plourde - Board	489	\$ 1,283.82
2023-12-09	Mac Bain - NEMI Meeting Expenses	490	\$ 2,822.41
2023-12-11	Good Gauley Productions 70-85%	491	\$ 11,441.25
	void	492	
2023-12-15	Lynda Carleton - Dec Board + Kap meals	493	\$ 221.30
2023-12-15	Danny - December meetings	494	\$ 1,567.84
2023-12-15	AMO Membership	495	\$ 467.82
2023-12-15	Town of Kap - Oct Board - Meal, Bus, Coffee, Lunch	496	\$ 1,957.72
2024-12-22	Deb Bain - 3 Month's Rent	497	\$ 675.00
	void	498	
2024-12-22	Mac Bain - Statement 49	499	\$ 4,000.81
2024-12-31	Services Charges		\$ 30.50

FONOM Financial Summary April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024 as of January 8, 2024

Revenue	Budget	YID	Variance
Hevelide			
Membership	32,555.00	31,286.88	1,268.12
AMO Reimbursements	4,000.00	2,617.15	1,382.85
NOHFC	45,000.00	31,431.90	13,568.10
Northern Suite at AMO	7,500.00	14,000.00	5,500.00
Investment Interest + RevCan	<u>-</u>		
Conference	30,000.00	124,827.02	(94,827.02)
Donations	5,000.00		5,000.00
FedNor - Promote the North		(14,179.00)	14,179.00
88	124,055.00	189,983.95	(53,928.95)
Service Fees	225.00	180.75	44.25
Board Meetings	42,000.00	38,070.45	3,929.55
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	16,500.00	6,324.23	10,175.77
Provincial Committee Meetings	11,000.00	6,121.73	4,878.27
Advertising - Clark Communicati	4,571.00	5,463.83	(892.83)
Insurance	700.00		700.00
General & Admin	9,300.00	9,314.38	(14.38)
Audit And Legal Fees	6,000.00	6,328.00	(328.00)
Staff Wages	34,000.00	26,000.00	8,000.00
Staff Travel	1,500.00	1,058.12	441.88
Executive Honorarium	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Northern Hospitality Amo	9,500.00	11,252.80	(1,752.80)
Conference Expense	14,000.00	13,158.63	841.37
GoNorth Campaign Catch n Release	50,000.00	37,217.49 4,573.49	12,782.51
Other	10,000.00	4,573.18	5,426.82
Other	<u>-</u>	_	泵
Other Other		=	5
<u> </u>	214,296.00	165,063.59	49,232.41
	(90,241.00)	24,920.36	(103,161.36)



To: Delegation during ROMA Conference January 2024

From: FONOM Board

Date: January 20, 2024

Subject: Update from the Minister of Transportation on the recommendation

made in the Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force Final Report

ISSUE:

Northern Ontario's roads, winter roads, rail, air and waterways do not only connect our resources to the world, but our residences to employment, education, health care and recreation. These networks supports economic development in Northern Ontario, now and into the future. The Northern Transportation Task Force Final Report was release in July of this year. The delegation during ROMA is our first opportunity to hear from Minister Sarkaria, on his vision the reports recommendations.

ANALYSIS:

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities wishes to continue our strong working relationship with the Minister and Ministry of Transportation. President Danny Whalen was a Co-Chair on the Northern Transportation Task Force for 15 months, and Mayor Dave Plourde, FONOM's 1st Vice President also participated. FONOM would like to offer our any we can to assists the Ministry action the recommendations.

The transportation networks in Northern Ontario are quite different that what is experienced in the Great Toronto Hamilton Area. Those that commute an hour to work in the morning by personal vehicle, may travel a hundred kilometres, with no Tim Horton's along the way. Some students are on the school bus for four hours each day, with the average commute being longer than a hour in the morning and evening. Most of our communities would be 45 minutes away from an emergency department, and even longer from a specialist. Since the pandemic



more are exploring Northeastern Ontario, and they expect a system in Ontario, similar to what they have a home (but enjoy our lack of congestion).

Many Provincial Ministries are working hard to bring more investments to Northern Ontario, having a strong reliable transportation network, is an item they must have in their toolbox. Northern Ontario has many of the Rare Earth elements (Critical Minerals) that needed to make Ontario the leader in the new renewable energy solutions economy. Even though in March 2022 the Premier's release of his *Ontario Critical Mineral Strategy*, does not mention transportation, it only succeeds with a strong integrated transportation network. The Ontario Northland Commission will play a crucial role to bring those elements to markets in Ontario, North America and the Globe.

The current mining, the mining operation that will come online in the next five years, and those soon after. A deep seaport in the Jame's Bay, long talked about, should be investigated. FONOM is not recommending the Ministry of Transportation build and operate the port. We are recommending your Ministry work with the Ministries of Northern Development, Economic Development, Mining, Indigenous Affairs and Natural Resources, to analysis the idea and develop a strategy to market the project to Global Transportation Industry.

FONOM would like to recommend the Minister's comment and commitment on;

- the 4-laning of Highway 69 must be completed promptly
- The 2+1 Highway Pilot must be accelerated
- Recognize that Highway's 11 & 17 are vital to the economic viability of Ontario, and that major infrastructure improvements are required to make them excisable year round
- Support for the Ontario Northland Commission and the Northlander must continue
- A Deep Sea Port in James Bay must be explored



Growth Plan for Northern Ontario March 4, 2011

Connecting the North December 10, 2020

Ontario Moving Ahead with First-Ever 2+1 Highway in North America November 10, 2022

Northern Ontario transportation task force interim report May 8, 2023

 $\underline{\text{https://www.ontario.ca/page/northern-ontario-transportation-task-force-interim-report}}$

Draft Northern Transportation Task Force Final Report July 2, 2023

Prabmeet Sarkaria becomes Minister of Transportation Sep 4, 2023



To: Delegation during ROMA Conference January 2024

From: FONOM Board

Date: January 20, 2024

Subject: School Board Trustee Elections in 2026

ISSUE:

Municipal Staff oversees the Municipal and multiple School Board elections. The ratepayers of the Municipality are currently responsible for covering all costs associated with the Elections, even when there is no Municipal Election.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario make school boards responsible for conducting their own trustee election or that the school boards fully compensate municipalities for overseeing such trustee elections. If the Ministry of Education selected the second option, FONOM recommends the Boards be invoiced for 40% - 70% of a Municipalities Election (example on third page).

ANALYSIS:

The Boards often will not allow their facilities (school) to be used on Election Day. The biggest challenges Municipality have with the School Board Elections are;

Citizens do not understand the rules that go along with being able to vote for a particular board (i.e., their children go to catholic school, but the parents are not catholic, so they cannot vote for the Trustee for the Catholic Board). The 2026 Election will be even more confusing for School Board Elections with the Province taking over the voters' list. Currently, MPAC cannot share an individual's school board designation with the province. FONOM knows they are still working on this issue, but if MPAC cannot share this information, this will add an extraordinary amount of work for the Clerk's Department. Going so far as saying the municipality will hire additional election assistants to have one person dedicated to ensuring everyone's school board information is correct.



School Board Elections and "non-resident" Electors are always confusing for Election workers. If you do not live in the Municipality (non-resident), you cannot vote for a school board trustee – you must vote for the trustee in the Municipality you reside in.

80-90 % of the calls the Clerks Department receives before and on Election Day are related to School Board issues.

Also, 31 Municipalities in 2022 had Councils that were acclaimed. Those Municipalities still had to prepare and operate School Board Elections at ratepayers' expense. We polled those Municipalities, and their costs were between \$3000-30,000. The total cost of 2022 Municipal and two of the four School Board Elections in North Bay was \$324,735.00, with the Clerk attributing 50% of the cost to the School Board Elections (noting that the Ballot cost only \$0.29; it is the education of the election worker and citizens is the challenge)

Due to Provincial Legislation, there currently is no financial support for a Municipality to help offset the cost of the Trustee Election. When there is no Municipal Election, the Municipality still has the responsibility and cost.

Due to the challenges, costs, and responsibility to conduct the trustee elections. FONOM believes the School Boards operate their own elections or financially compensate the municipality for the costs incurred.



Thessalon – (municipal acclamation, with school board election held)

Election Cost 2022 - \$4,435 * 70% = \$3,104.50

Township of Prince – (municipal and school board election held)

Election Cost in 2022 - \$3,000 * 40% = \$1,200

Algoma School Boards

Algoma District School Board - English Public	12,282 students - district percentage 0.458			
Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario - French Public	2,487 students - district percentage 0.09			
Le Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario - French Catholic	7,000 student - district percentage 0.26			
Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board - English Catholic	5,000 student - district percentage 0.186			



To: Delegation during ROMA Conference January 2024

From: FONOM Board

Date: January 20, 2024

Subject: Short Term Rentals impact on Communities and Environment

ISSUE:

Most families renting a home or cottage for a short-term stay are there to enjoy a holiday with their family. A trending higher percentage is coming North and bringing a dozen of their close friends. Many homes used in Northeastern Ontario are in Communities without Municipal Services. Most take their drinking water from the lake the home of the cottage is on. The houses and septic systems were designed for single-family use.

Please note that most smaller municipalities have a part-time bylaw officer and are covered by the OPP. The Bylaw personnel try but can only respond to some complaints, and neither can the OPP. FONOM is concerned not only about the noise and nuisance a dozen people can do all day and all night. We are also interested in the negative impacts of many of these party homes on the lake. The phosphorous loading will have a long-term effect on the lakes past their stay. Trailers often arrive on the rented property, increasing the risk of increased phosphorous impact on the lake.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests that the Government of Ontario move forward as soon as possible to legislate all third-party short-term rental brokerage companies to;

- appropriately manage and be responsible for their listings, and to compel compliance;
- establish a registry system, making it mandatory for each rental listing to register
 and pay an appropriate annual fee, with the requirement that STR companies are to
 provide the registry and collected fees to the municipality in which the STR
 properties are located, allowing municipalities to be aware of all registered STR
 properties and to have access to funds to assist with the response and enforcement
 of issues surrounding STR properties; and



- de-list/remove a property from the STR company's listing when a municipality has identified and verified life, health and/or nuisance infractions including noise, fire safety, septic, etc.to ensure a property cannot be rented;
- property owners provide proof of septic pump out annually when paying municipal taxes on systems older than ten years

ANALYSIS:

Short-term Rentals have been an isolated issue in condos in larger communities for decades. But since the pandemic, they have become an issue for every district in Northeastern Ontario. In the area, FONOM represents 57 of our 110 member communities, has a population of less than a thousand people, and needs more resources to deal appropriately with those guests that negatively impact the community and the environment.

Also, enforcement is difficult in those communities across the province that have created short-term rental bylaws. Neighbouring communities will often have different regulations. Enforcement is still an issue as no community has full-time bylaw enforcement, and municipal and OPP enforcement has offered challenges. Also, several communities plan to revisit their short-term rental bylaws as issues are being found.

When a home or cottage on a lake was built, it was designed for a family. Many of the FONOM Board grew up in homes with septic systems; some still do, and our parents engrained into us the rules of water use and what can be flushed. The new owners of many of these rentals, and throngs of people that rent a cottage for the week, have no regard for those tired and tested rules. The environment is being impacted and many lake communities are quite concerned, far beyond NIMBYism.

Several FONOM members have had to limit the number of trailers that arrive at a short-term rental, further impacting the neighbour's enjoyment by loading more people onto the footprint.

We would also like to remind the Ministry of our previous conversation about the emerging issue of nuisance houseboats on lakes across Ontario. This impacts the ratepayers on the lakes but is not a Municipal issue and a real challenge for enforcement.



Due to the challenges in enforcing short-term rentals across the Province and to the environment in our lakes and rivers, FONOM believes the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing must create legislation that regulates the Ontario Short term Rental industry so that neighbourhoods and the environment are protected.

		FONOM				
	Pro	posed Budget				
April	1, 20	24 - March 31, 2	2025			
_	Bu	dget 2024-2025	Bu	dget 2023-2024	<u>Y</u>	TD 2023-2024
Revenue						
Membership	\$	32,555.00	\$	32,555.00	\$	31,286.88
AMO Reimbursements	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00	\$	2,617.15
NOHFC	\$	45,000.00	\$	45,000.00	\$	31,431.90
Northern Suite at AMO	\$	14,000.00	\$	7,500.00	\$	14,000.00
Investment Interest + RevCan			\$	-		
Conference	\$	55,000.00	\$	30,000.00	\$	124,827.02
Donations	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00		
FedNor - Promote the North	\$	99,098.20			\$	14,179.00
	\$	254,653.20	\$	124,055.00	\$	189,983.95
Service Fees		225.00		225.00		180.00
Board Meetings		55,000.00		42,000.00		38,070.00
Amo Board Meeting & Mou		12,000.00		16,500.00		6,324.00
Provincial Committee Meetings		8,500.00		11,000.00		6,121.00
Advertising - Clark Communications		1,000.00		4,571.00		5,463.00
Insurance		700.00		700.00		
General & Admin		9,300.00		9,300.00		9,314.00
Audit And Legal Fees		7,000.00		6,000.00		6,328.00
Staff Wages		34,000.00		34,000.00		26,000.00
Staff Travel		2,000.00		1,500.00		1,058.00
Executive Honorarium		5,000.00		5,000.00		
Northern Hospitality Amo		14,000.00		9,500.00		11,258.00
Conference Expense		14,000.00		14,000.00		13,158.00
GoNorth Campaign & SNOED progr		114,635.20		50,000.00		37,217.00
Catch n Release		5,000.00		10,000.00		4,573.00
Other				-		-
Other				-		-
Other				-		-
					-	
		282,360.20		214,296.00		165,064.00
		(27.707.00)		(00.244.00)	-	24.040.05
		(27,707.00)		(90,241.00)		24,919.95