

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Friday, March 28, 2025

Present

D. Whalen, President

D. Plourde, 1st Vice President

L. Watson, 2nd Vice President

A. MacNevin, Director

M. Horsfield, Director

L. Carleton, Director

R. Carrier, Director

ZOOM

L. Feldman, Director

M. Signoretti

Regrets

S. Hollingsworth, Director

P. Lefebvre, Director

T. Kelly, Director

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

FONOM Board Meeting

Friday, March 28, 2025

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:36 am

1.0 Welcome and President's Report

Danny welcomed Councillor Lorne Feldman from Timmins to the FONOM Board and noted that the Board wants to work with him. Danny provided a written report of his activities since the January Board meeting (**Page 8**). A thank you was offered to Mayor Hagman for joining the Board Thursday evening and providing FONOM with the Chambers for their meeting. He also mentioned the great coverage the Debate received and thanked everyone involved. Danny then mentioned that the members he spoke with all appreciated our work for FONOM.

L. Watson moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton**, that the President's Report be received
MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M. Horsfield moved, **SECONDED** by **R. Carrier**, that the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations

Paul Lefebvre joined the meeting via Zoom to introduce the Northern Energy Corridor. The Canadian government is seeking ways to export our abundant energy resources to new markets. The Northern Energy Corridor is a project that the Board wishes to explore with the municipalities in northern Quebec. As this is a national initiative, FONOM believes these discussions are essential at the beginning stages, knowing that the Federal Government and large energy producers will ultimately oversee it. After a discussion, the Board agreed that Paul and Dave would contact the Northern Quebec municipal association to initiate a dialogue on this issue.

L. Watson moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton**, that D. Plourde and P. Lefebvre explore the Northern Energy Corridor with the Northern Members of the Fédération Québécoise des Municipalités (FQM) and the Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ).

MOTION CARRIED.

Doug Reycraft and Carol Lowery from the Community School Alliance also attended the meeting. Doug provided an overview of the Alliance's history and activities to date, highlighting statistics demonstrating the benefits of having schools within a community. Some expressed their frustrations with dealing with School Boards, and some members voiced their support for transitioning to a one-school-board system in the province while also recognizing the challenges involved in that transition. The Board agreed to share information about the Alliance with its members. Further, the Board may consider a delegation with the Minister of Education regarding a one-school-board-system.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE January 19, 2025, BOARD MEETING

A. MacNevin moved, **SECONDED** by **M. Horsfield**, that the Minutes be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 M. Bain provided a recap of the Provincial Delegation held during the ROMA Conference. Aside from the content of the delegation, Board members shared their frustration about not attending the Conference Session to the extent their Municipality or Association would expect. The Board asked that options be discussed at the next meeting.

5.2 M. Bain updated the Board on the outcome of the Leaders' debate. He thanked the board members who helped on the day and shared the financials, outcomes, views, and media coverage. Mac also covered the lessons learned and the few issues dealt with.

5.3 D. Whalen provided the Board with his multiple discussions with mining communities and the challenges they face in housing the workers closer to the mine.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Resolution Received – Veterinarian Shortage in Northern Ontario

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

A. MacNevin moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Plourde**, that a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Agriculture

MOTION CARRIED.

6.2 Resolution Received – Removal of Board Member from an ABC

Municipality of Magnetawan

6.3 Resolutions Received – Sovereignty of Canada

Municipality of Magnetawan

Municipality of East Ferris

Municipality of McMurrich/Monteith

Township of Evanturel

6.4 Resolution Received – Provincial Land Tax & GST

Township of Coleman

6.5 Resolutions Received – Tariffs

Municipality of Magnetawan

Township of The Archipelago

Town of Cochrane

Town of Kirkland Lake

6.6 Resolution Received – Expanding the Northlander Service to Hearst

Town of Cochrane

6.7 Resolutions Received – Urgent Need for Improvements to Highways 11 and 17

Township of Coleman

Municipality of Neebing

Township of Evanturel

Conmee Township

Town of Laurentian Hills

The Township of St. Joseph

L. Carleton moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Plourde**, that a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Transportation.

MOTION CARRIED

6.0 NEW BUSINESS - continued

6.8 Resolutions Received – Buy Canadian

NEMI	Municipality of Magnetawan
Town of Kapuskasing	Municipality of Calvin
Municipality of Killarney	

6.9 Letter Received – Request for Board Representation

Town of Espanola

A lengthy discussion was held on the history of the noted communities' representation on FONOM. The Board asked that a letter be sent to all Municipalities in the Sudbury district.

6.10 Resolution Received – Advocate for Provincial Review of the Provincial

Land Tax (PLT) for Unincorporated Areas
Municipality of Huron Shores

6.11 Resolution Received – Appointment of Lorne Feldman to the FONOM Board

City of Timmins

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

L. Feldman moved and was seconded by **A. MacNevin** that all the correspondence items were received for information purposes.

- 7.1 Resolutions Received – Financial Sustainability in Child Welfare
- 7.2 Resolutions Received – Changes to the Planning Act
- 7.3 Resolutions Received – Extended producer responsibility (EPR) in ICI sector
- 7.4 Resolutions Received – Concern with AMO Election letter
- 7.5 Letter Received – Hope Air
- 7.6 Resolution Received – Ontario Deposit Return
- 7.7 Resolution Received – Resume Assessment Cycle
- 7.8 Resolution Received – Investment & Maintaining Forest Operations

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **L. Watson** moved, seconded by **M. Horsfield**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 9*) for January 2025 & February 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.2 **A. MacNevin** moved, seconded by **M. Horsfield**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 10*) ending March 15th, 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain discussed the FedNor and MND grants with the Board, noting that he has received significant help from each agency's staff with the application process.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - continues

- 8.4 M. Bain updated the Board on the 2025 FONOM Conference, noting that the event and exhibitors are sold out. He discussed his frustration that some of the large Municipal Contractors in Northeastern Ontario do not financially support the conference. Mac and Danny spoke about the overwhelming support the City of North Bay Conference Staff has provided to make this event successful. Mac discussed with the Board the topics they would like presented at the FONOM Annual General Meeting

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton shared the service expansion in the Mobile Paramedicine program, which is much needed and greatly appreciated in the region. Additionally, it was noted that the next Parry Sound Municipal Association meeting will take place on May 23 in Callander and will feature a full agenda. There was also a discussion around growing concerns about the impact of logging trucks from unorganized communities on municipal roads, with several voices raising the issue as an ongoing challenge.

District of Manitoulin

MacNevin shared that housing significantly impacts many businesses and sectors like other regions. On the Island, efforts are being made to recruit international doctors and nurse practitioners. Still, retention is proving difficult because they expect the hospital to provide waterfront housing, which isn't feasible. Al also shared that even the local grocery store is struggling to retain workers due to the lack of affordable housing in the area.

City of North Bay

M. Horsfield shared that the Jack Garland Airport's finances are still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, and the city has committed \$60,000 per month in support from reserves for the remainder of the year. However, the Council must determine whether this support should be included in the tax levy in future years. The City of North Bay also received \$10.6 million from the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund. In response, Council amended policies to allow additional dwelling units (ADUs), prompting interest from developers who are now prepared to move forward with the city's commitment of up to \$25,000 per new unit.

City of Timmins

L. Feldman highlighted the city's challenges and progress. He noted that infrastructure pressures continue to pose significant issues alongside the ongoing concern of encampments. On a more positive note, Feldman shared that four new doctors have joined the region since the summer, crediting effective recruitment efforts for this success. He also announced that the new Golden Manor, a home for the aged, is on track to open in 2026. However, he emphasized that housing remains a pressing concern for the community.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS - continued

City of Sudbury

M. Signoretti discussed the growing concern over potholes and their challenges to road safety and maintenance. The conversation also touched on the various agencies involved in managing local encampments, pointing out the complexity of coordination and response. A recurring theme was the severe lack of funding, with members emphasizing that current financial resources are insufficient to adequately address the region's infrastructure deficit.

District of Algoma

L. Watson noted that the next Algoma Municipal District Association meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2025. Due to their proximity to the U.S. and the economic significance of Algoma Steel, a shared concern among municipalities is the potential impact of tariffs. Additionally, there have been widespread discussions with Pioneer regarding the durability of asphalt. Municipalities are questioning whether the issue lies in the quality of materials or the increasing traffic volume. In fact, some municipalities are even considering reverting to gravel roads as a more viable alternative.

District of Temiskaming

D. Whalen shared during the regional report that the Executive Director of the Temiskaming Municipal District Association is currently unwell, and as a result, others are stepping in to assist with their duties. He also noted that several small municipalities in the region are struggling with the financial burden of cleaning up Brown Fields. In addition, there is widespread frustration over the rising number of fatalities on Northern Highways, with many calling for the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to be pressured into taking action. Danny also found it notable that the expansion of the 2+1 highway model was announced during a campaign stop in Iroquois Falls.

District of Cochrane

D. Plourde expressed shared concerns regarding the growing infrastructure deficit, which continues to impact regional municipalities. A significant issue raised was the ongoing frustration from residents over the frequent and prolonged highway closures, which disrupt travel and economic activity. In light of this, it was emphasized that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) should begin planning immediately to implement a 2+1 highway system along Highways 11 and 17 to improve traffic flow and safety across Northern Ontario. Additionally, the region has strong potential for developing more greenhouses, capitalizing on the abundant biomass supply to support sustainable agricultural growth.

District of Sudbury

R. Carrier shared that the construction of the new senior housing units is progressing ahead of schedule and under budget, marking a significant win for our community. In economic news, ANMAR Mechanical will be opening soon in Alban, bringing new industry and job opportunities to the area. The regional OPP detachment will also receive four new officers, enhancing local policing capacity. However, challenges remain—our infrastructure deficit continues to be difficult to manage, requiring ongoing attention and planning. Additionally, there is growing concern around the sustainability of our volunteer firefighter force. Increased training requirements are putting considerable pressure on volunteers regarding time commitment and retention, with real concerns about potentially losing some dedicated members.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS - continued

District of Nipissing
No Report Available

City of Sault Ste Marie
No Report Available

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

11:0 IN CAMERA - none

12.0 NEXT MEETING, Sunday, May 4th, 2025, in North Bay or the Call of the Chair.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT 11:42 am.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MARCH 28th, 2025

A. MacNevin moved, seconded by **R. Carrier** that the Minutes be accepted as presented on Sunday, May 4th, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

President's Report March 28, 2025

Feb 21 - Call meeting with Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
Feb 21 - Call with AMO President regarding AMO Northern Caucus replacement
Feb 21 - Call with NOMA President regarding AMO Northern Caucus replacement
Feb 21 - Call with Timmins Mayor - 2nd required call
Feb 22- Lengthy call with Timmins FONOM representative - 3rd required call
Feb 27 - AMO Executive meeting
March 4 - Call with Mark at Hope Air regarding approach to the province
March 06 - FONOM/FedNor Agreement - AGM Resolutions - New Cabinet posts
March 11- CBC Sudbury. Interview regarding tariffs.
March 11- CTV News . Tariff impacts
March 14 - OFIA - Lumber Tariffs
March 19 - FONOM Conference Planning
March 19 - Troy Simkins OSSTF - ESSP Bargaining Unit - Northern Leaders Debate questions March
20 - AMO Executive
March 20 AMO Committee of the Whole
March 21 - AMO Board

I spent the month of February away in the Dominican Republic. I did have my cell phone and received calls regarding FONOM business and did my best to handle them.

I was able to participate in our AMO Executive meeting. I felt this was an important meeting due to both the provincial election and the potential for USA tariffs. I also participated in a round-table and letter drafting with the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce.

I had a productive call with Mark Rubinstein of Hope Air. I updated him on our last delegation with the Minister of Health, noting the hard NO that we received regarding a funding program for Hope Air. I explained to him that should the Board approve, we would move from requesting direct funding to Hope Air to support or assistance for clients of Hope Air.

8.1

List of Expenditures

January 7, 2025 - March 15, 2025

11-01-2025	Replacement Cheque 545 - Rotary Club of Sudbury	616	\$ 300.00
16-01-2025	NPI - SNOED Program	617	\$ 13,692.00
15-01-2025	CMG Computing Services	618	\$ 474.39
17-01-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 63	619	\$ 3,328.86
19-01-2025	Dave Plourde - January Board	620	\$ 1,378.16
19-01-2025	Maggie Horsfield - January Board	621	\$ 693.44
19-01-2025	Al MacNevin - January Board	622	\$ 778.00
19-01-2025	NEMI -Al MacNevin - January Board	623	\$ 204.82
19-01-2025	John Curley - January Board	624	\$ 1,416.46
20-01-2025	Sandra Hollingsworth - December & January Board	625	\$ 1,416.46
19-01-2025	Lynda Carleton - January Board	626	\$ 200.00
25-01-2025	Mac Bain - FONOM Board & ROMA Conference	627	\$ 2,792.24
27-01-2025	Danny Whalen - January Meetings and ROMA Conference	615	\$ 5,215.66
29-01-2025	Lynn Watson - January Board	628	\$ 1,203.97
29-01-2025	Dave Plourde - January Board correction	629	\$ 27.41
31-01-2025	Service Charges		\$ 12.00
13-02-2025	VOID - Replaced by 638	630	
14-02-2025	Sue McLeod	631	\$ 150.00
14-02-2025	Jacob Martyn	632	\$ 150.00
14-02-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 64	633	\$ 6,846.36
14-02-2025	Dave Plourde	634	\$ 929.15
18-02-2025	Lynn Watson	635	\$ 586.80
18-02-2025	John Curley	636	\$ 685.88
18-02-2025	Al MacNevin	637	\$ 360.00
28-02-2025	Replacing Cheque 630 - Monika	638	\$ 339.00
27-02-2025	City of North Bay - NWMO & Strong	639	\$ 8,200.00
03-03-2025	Canadore Alumni Foundation	640	\$ 6,500.00
05-03-2025	Mac Bain - Debate Reimbursement	641	\$ 2,726.74
14-03-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 65	642	\$ 3,504.96

		FONOM			
		Financial Summary			
		April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025			
		as of March 15, 2025			
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
	Revenue				
	Membership	32,555.00	35,384.91	(2,829.91)	
	AMO Reimbursements	4,000.00	7,968.45	(3,968.45)	
	NOHFC	45,000.00	27,895.40	17,104.60	
	Northern Suite at AMO	7,500.00	12,750.00	(5,250.00)	
	Investment Interest + Misc	-	-	-	
	Conference	30,000.00	188,260.60	(158,260.60)	
	Donations	5,000.00	20.00	4,980.00	
	FedNor - Promote the North		-	-	
		124,055.00	272,279.36	(148,224.36)	
	Service Fees	225.00	433.17	(208.17)	
	Board Meetings	42,000.00	42,478.62	(478.62)	
	Amo Board Meeting & Mou	16,500.00	15,539.52	960.48	
	Provincial Committee Meetings	11,000.00	20,352.21	(9,352.21)	
	Advertising - Clark Communications	4,571.00	1,193.28	3,377.72	
	Insurance	700.00	-	700.00	
	General & Admin	9,300.00	9,888.45	(588.45)	
	Audit And Legal Fees	6,000.00	5,989.00	11.00	
	Staff Wages	34,000.00	35,320.00	(1,320.00)	
	Staff Travel	1,500.00	1,608.83	- 108.83	
	Executive Honorarium	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	
	Northern Hospitality Amo	9,500.00	13,317.88	(3,817.88)	
	Conference Expense	14,000.00	108,667.62	(94,667.62)	
	GoNorth Campaign	50,000.00	50,123.40	(123.40)	
	Catch n Release	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	
	Other	-	-	-	
	Other	-	-	-	
	Other	-	-	-	
		214,296.00	304,911.98	(90,615.98)	
		(90,241.00)	(32,632.62)	(57,608.38)	