

**FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES**

**MINUTES**

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

Present

**D. Whalen, President**

**D. Plourde, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**L. Watson, 2nd Vice President**

**A. MacNevin, Director**

**M. Horsfield, Director**

**S. Hollingsworth, Director**

Zoom

**L. Carleton, Director**

**T. Kelly, Director**

**L. Feldman, Director**

Regrets

**R. Carrier, Director**

**P. Lefebvre, Director**

**M. Signoretti**

Staff

**M. Bain, Executive Director**

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm

### **1.0 Welcome and President's Report**

Danny welcomed everyone to Ottawa and those online. He provided a written report of his activities since the May Board meeting (**pages 9 and 10**), covering a few key items. He spoke about the amount of media inquiry and ministry interest over the period. Danny also noted the loss of Lynda's husband, Dean, and expressed the Board's sympathies. Lynda thanked everyone for the emails, calls and the flowers following Dean's passing.

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

### **2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**L. Watson** moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Plourde**, that the Agenda be approved as amended.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3.0 Timed Delegations**

"PA" **Graydon Smith** offered his apologies for not being able to join the meeting.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE May 4, 2025, BOARD MEETING**

**A. MacNevin** moved, **SECONDED** by **S. Hollingsworth**, that the Minutes be accepted as amended.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 5.1 M. Bain provided a briefing to the Board on the sharing of the resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting. Additionally, next year, the annual list of all resolutions for Action will be included in the AGM package.
- 5.2 M. Bain briefed the Board on the wrap-up of the 2025 FONOM Conference, including the financials and survey results. The Board shared the comments it had received for consideration at future conferences, which are included below. Additionally, many spoke to the great work of the City of North Bay Conference Committee, its organization, and especially the Banquet.
  - Tables, not just chairs, for presentations and sessions
  - Delegations during FONOM Conference – item **8.3**
  - Sessions ideas for 2026
    - Reasons why to Run or Run Again
    - What Healthy Democracy looks like
    - Prepare for Forest Fires within your Region

## 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – continued

- 5.3 D. Plourde provided a briefing on the activities and discussions he and P. Lefebvre had with the Municipalities of Northern Quebec. There was a discussion of a joint letter. Following a conversation with other members of the Executive, it was decided not to proceed with a joint letter at this time.

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Resolution Received – Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection and Decontamination Program  
Municipality of Temagami and 1 other Municipality  
The Board discussed the value of decontaminating vessels as they travel between watercourses. The challenges with how this program would operate throughout the north, noting that this cannot be downloaded to municipalities.

**S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **L. Watson**, that the FONOM Board call upon the Minister of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Transportation to establish an Aquatic Invasive Species Program, similar to Manitoba's, to protect lakes in Northern Ontario

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- 6.2 Resolution Received – Environmental & Public Health Risks at Abandoned Refinery  
Coleman Township
- 6.3 Letter Received – Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 (Bill 5)  
Township of The Archipelago and 3 other Municipalities
- 6.4 Resolution Received – Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education  
District of Parry Sound Municipal Association
- 6.5 Resolution Received – Firefighter Certification Requirements  
Township of Black River-Matheson and 6 other Municipalities
- 6.6 Resolution Received - Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans  
Municipality of Magnetawan and 1 other Municipality
- 6.7 Resolution Received – Four-laning of Highway 69  
Town of Parry Sound
- 6.8 Resolution Received – Advocating Non-closure of Cecil Facer Youth Centre  
Town of Parry Sound
- 6.9 Resolution Received - Request for Delegations at FONOM Conference  
Township of Larder Lake and 1 other Municipality
- 6.10 Resolution Received – Support for making NORDS funding permanent  
Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and 4 other Municipalities

## 6.0 **New Business**      Resolutions for Action - continued

- 6.11 Resolution Received – Immediate Action Needed – Softwood Lumber Dispute Threatens Northeastern Ontario’s Forest Sector  
Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and 1 other Municipality
- 6.12 Letter Received – Support for a Nation-Building Case for a 2+1 Highway  
Township of Armour and 5 other Municipalities

## 7.0 **Correspondence/Information Items**

**T. Kelly** moved, and **L. Carleton** seconded, that all correspondence items be received for informational purposes.

- 7.1 Acknowledgement Received – Conference Speaker Donation
- 7.2 Resolution Received – Northern Highway Safety Plan
- 7.3 Resolution Received – Lack of Veterinarians in the North
- 7.4 Letter Received – Proposed Justice Legislation Amendment Act and Implications for Community Housing Providers
- 7.5 Acknowledgement Received – Thank you from Minister Parsa
- 7.6 Resolution Received – Executive Award Nomination
- 7.7 Resolution Received – Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers
- 7.8 Resolution Received – Support for FONOM AGM Resolutions
- 7.9 Resolution Received – Policing costs for all communities
- 7.10 Resolution Received – Expand Extended Producer Responsibility to the ICI Sector
- 7.11 Resolution Received – Provincial Review of Mandated Public Health Programs
- 7.12 Resolution Received – Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review
- 7.13 Information Received – 2+1 Environmental Assessment
- 7.14 Letter Received – ECA Amendment Concerns
- 7.15 Letter Sent – Advancing New Hydroelectric Generation in Ontario
- 7.16 Policies Received – Presented to the Premier
- 7.17 Resolution Received – Stand for Canada
- 7.18 Letter Sent – Support for Master's program in Leadership at Nipissing University
- 7.19 Letter Received – Request sent to Minister Jones
- 7.20 Letter Sent – Supporting Federal Bail Reform
- 7.21 Release Received – Ontario Celebrates Waterpower Day on June 20th
- 7.22 Resolution Received – Bill 49 – the Northern Highways 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025
- 7.23 Letter Received – Donation to FONOM
- 7.24 Letter Sent – A Nation-Building Case for a 2+1 Highway for enhanced east-west
- 7.25 Letter Received – Tariffs on Softwood
- 7.26 Media Release Sent – Federal Commitment to Secure the Future of Canada’s

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **D. Plourde** moved, seconded by **M. Horsfield**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 11*) for May 2025, June 2025, & July 2025

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- 8.2 **S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **L. Watson**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 12*) ending August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**MOTION CARRIED.**

- 8.3 M. Bain noted that FONOM has received resolutions requesting assistance in facilitating Member Delegations with Ministries during our annual conference. FONOM members, regardless of size, face specific issues tailored to their needs. However, many are unable to justify the significant costs associated with registration, travel, accommodations, and meals due to their financial constraints.

The number of delegation requests is on the rise during AMO and ROMA, and municipalities in the North are competing with regional governments, DSAABs, and major national associations for time with a Minister. Mac provided a summary of the requirements for Delegations during the annual conference. He also emphasized that Ministers need to commit to attending the conference in February, rather than during the week of the event.

The Board expressed a preference that if delegations are to take place, they should be limited to small municipalities. A discussion also occurred regarding FONOM's potential to facilitate virtual Delegations for smaller members with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The Board has requested that Mac report back on this matter.

- 8.4 D. Whalen mentioned to the members that FONOM Board Elections for the Executive will be held at the October Board meeting. He encouraged the members to consider who they would like to lead FONOM into the future.

- 8.5 M. Bain expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped arrange and bring the fare and coolers to Ottawa. He also thanked those who volunteered at the Hospitality Suite on Monday night. Additionally, Mac acknowledged Deb, Sue, Christine, Mia, and Taiya for their efforts in preparing for the event. He reviewed the financials with the Board and will provide a final report at the next meeting.

## **8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – continued**

- 8.6 M. Bain highlighted an issue regarding the delegations during AMO. The requests he submitted through the MMAH Portal vanished, which meant we didn't have any delegations. However, after making direct calls to the Minister's Office, FONOM was able to secure several delegations. Mac noted that the Board had previously received the Policy Documents, which we will discuss during our delegation

## **9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS**

### **District of Algoma**

L. Watson reported that the Algoma Municipal District Association will meet in White River in September, to discuss several key challenges. Members will discuss NORDS funding and its impact on municipal budgets, the strain that provincial Fire Certification requirements place on volunteer departments, and community preparations for the upcoming forest fire season. There will also be a focus on improving Council decorum to support more effective dialogue, collaboration, and decision-making.

### **District of Manitoulin**

A. MacNevin reported that since the last Board meeting, the District has been addressing several emerging issues. There has been some progress on affordable housing, with developers showing interest in opportunities on the Island. Meanwhile, growing concerns have been raised about the number of billboards along Provincial highways, which are seen as distracting and detracting from Northern Ontario's natural beauty. These and other priorities continue to guide the District's discussions and advocacy efforts.

### **District of Cochrane**

D. Plourde reported progress on several fronts, including renewed Biomass energy activity and exploration of Biochar as a soil enhancer. Kapuskasing is seeking provincial funding for an MRI machine to serve the region and reduce the need for travel to Timmins, North Bay or Sudbury. A positive infrastructure development is the highway paving contract from Fauquier to Kapuskasing, which includes shoulder paving to improve safety.

### **District of Nipissing**

T. Kelly reported that since the last Board meeting, East Ferris has raised concerns regarding the impacts of Brain Drain on the community. The municipality is also exploring strategies to retain youth, recognizing the importance of keeping young people engaged and invested in the community's future.

## 9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS - continued

### City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingworth reported that since the last Board meeting, Sault Ste. Marie has experienced several notable developments. She encouraged everyone to participate in NOSM's Strategic Planning survey, questioning why Northern students are not ranked higher in terms of acceptance. The City's Police Services Board has lost two members, with replacements still unclear, though a new Police Chief has been appointed. Algoma Steel continues to face challenges from steel and aluminum tariffs, while on a positive note, recent FONOM videos have received strong feedback. The City also successfully hosted a Métis Conference that welcomed over 800 participants.

### District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton reported on activities in her district and expressed gratitude for the support she has received from her Council, staff, and fellow elected officials across the Parry Sound district following the passing of her husband, Dean. She noted that the next Association meeting will be held in Orrville this September. Locally, the sale of the Bear Chair company did not go through. Recent community events included the South River Classic Car Show, which drew 800 people, and the Sunflower Festival in Sundridge, which attracted over 10,000 visitors.

### City of North Bay

M. Horsfield reported that in North Bay, construction season is in full swing with many capital projects underway, including the new community centre with a twin pad. However, a cloud remains over the City related to the Mayor's expenses, Council expenses, and how these matters are being addressed. There is also growing concern about increasing harassment directed at staff, Council, and their families.

### City of Timmins

L. Feldman shared that Timmins recently experienced a frost warning. Construction has begun on the ONR Train Station, and work continues on a major Connecting Link capital project. The local hospital has successfully recruited several new doctors; however, further recruitment is still necessary. He also noted that housing starts in the city remain below expectations, and the Council is exploring ways to provide support.

### District of Temiskaming

D. Whalen shared that farming has been quite good this summer throughout the Region.

### District of Sudbury

No Report Available

### City of Greater Sudbury

No Report Available

## 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

S. Hollingsworth, our member of FONOM on the Northern School of Medicine (NOSM) Board, shared that the school is undertaking a Strategic Planning process. Sandra would like to share the School's Strategic Objectives Discussion with FONOM Board members next week. She asked that the Board take the time, given the role NOSM plays in our districts and communities.

11:0 IN CAMERA - none

12.0 NEXT MEETING, Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, in Parry Sound.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT – **L. Watson** moved, seconded by **M. Horsfield**, that the Board meeting be adjourned at 4:11 pm.

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **T. Kelly** that the Minutes be accepted as presented on Sunday, May 4th, 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED.**



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President Danny Whalen

## Presidents Report

June, July, and August, 2025

05 June - AMO / MOU Pre meet and meeting  
26 June - MNM- NORDS Funding Review and Suggestions  
27 June - OFIA - Lobby Effort meeting  
03 July - AMO / MOU Pre meet and meeting  
11 July - AMO - Exec Director Interviews and Northern Caucus follow up  
24 July - AMO Executive meeting  
25 July - OFIA Follow up to Prime Ministers comments  
25 July - Comment Panel regarding Fauquier Strickland Bankruptcy claim  
25 July - Village Media podcast - Build Canada Act submission  
29 July - Discussions with Minister Pirie. Increase in NOHFC envelope for FONOM and NOMA  
07 August - AMO / MOU Pre meet and meeting  
11 August - Minister Pirie - NORDS discussions  
11 August - Further NORDS planning  
15 August - AMO Conference  
16 August - AMO Executive meeting  
17 August - AMO Board meeting  
17 August - FONOM Board meeting  
18 August - AMO Conference  
19 August - AMO Conference  
20 August - AMO Conference

Most of the meetings I participated in were using Zoom or Teams during the summer months, and as such, even sitting in Nova Scotia, I have been in attendance.

We continue to support the forestry sector, and in our last meeting with OFIA, we sent a letter to Prime Minister Carney regarding the importance of the sector and opportunities within Canada in the face of the national housing shortage. We are pleased that shortly after our lobby efforts, the Prime Minister made strong statements in support of our forest sector. We have also received a letter back from Prime Minister Carney in response.

## Presidents Report - continued

Mac, Lynn and I participated in a meeting with MNDM staff to discuss the NORDS funding and program suggestions. A follow-up meeting at the request of Minister Pirie will happen in August.

I have attended all of the AMO Memorandum of Understanding meetings with various ministers.

The Executive Director for AMO announced his retirement for the end of August. The position was posted internally with one applicant. Lindsay Jones had been hired with the intention of grooming her for the position. We held an interview with her that lasted over an hour and covered all aspects of the ED position. All eight members of the interview team recommended accepting her into the position. I then held a series of telephone follow-up calls with each member of the AMO Northern Caucus.

I was asked to sit on a discussion panel regarding the bankruptcy announcement by Fauquier Strickland. I felt this was an opportunity to voice the FONOM position on funding, our relationship with MMAH and the Council's responsibility to the community.

We exchanged numerous emails to prepare our document regarding the Build Canada Act. Once this document was sent to the Prime Minister and all provincial Premiers, the media started calling. FONOM had no less than a dozen media sessions in the first three days. I also conducted a session with Village Media, which was distributed to all their media outlets and contacts. They posted the full interview on their website and podcast.

I received a call from Minister Pirie. We spoke at length about current funding, funding announcements and the work FONOM does. He has raised our NOHFC funding envelope by \$25,000.00. He expressed his gratitude for the work we do and felt it important to strengthen provincial support. He also mentioned that FONOM has only lobbied for continued funding and has never asked for any additional.

# 8.1

<b>List of Expenditures</b>				
April 10, 2025 - August 14, 2025				
2025-04-30	Service Fees			\$ 23.00
2025-04-30	City of North Bay - intact and gfd - exhibitor	659		\$ 3,544.20
2025-04-30	City of North Bay - intact and gfd - sponsorship	660		\$ 13,335.10
2025-04-30	Danny Whalen - April meeting - AMDA & NOMA	661		\$ 5,085.10
	void	662		
	void	663		
2025-04-30	City of North Bay - Burks Falls & Strong - Delegate fees	664		\$ 684.80
2025-05-04	Renee Carrier - May Board Meeting	665		\$ 501.32
2025-05-04	Danny Whalen - May Meetings	666		\$ 5,447.51
2025-05-04	Terry Kelly - May Board Meeting	667		\$ 234.56
2025-05-04	Lynn Watson - May Board Meeting	668		\$ 778.20
2025-05-04	Dave Plourde - May Board Meeting	669		\$ 822.12
2025-05-04	Al MacNevin - May Board Meeting	670		\$ 637.20
2025-05-04	Sandra Hollingsworth - May Board Meeting	671		\$ 760.48
2025-05-04	Lynda Carleton - May Board Meeting	672		\$ 494.64
2025-05-09	Mac - Statement 67 + Conference	673		\$ 8,426.99
2025-05-10	Low Income People Initiative	674		\$ 300.00
2025-05-10	One Kids Place	675		\$ 300.00
2025-05-14	Mac - Board and Conference Expenses	676		\$ 7,394.88
2025-05-14	Maggie Horsefield - May Board Meeting	677		\$ 400.00
2025-05-20	Olya Sanakoev - Conference Fee and expenses	680		\$ 4,516.93
2025-05-30	Service Fees			\$ 30.50
06-06-2025	Mac Bain statement 68	681		\$ 4,636.05
22-06-2025	Mac Bain - AMO meeting	682		\$ 883.50
23-06-2025	Deb Bain rent - April, May, June	683		\$ 1,200.00
27-06-2025	Clark Communications - Wedhosting	684		\$ 1,193.28
30-06-2025	Service Fees			\$ 13.00
04-07-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 69	685		\$ 3,493.64
17-07-2025	CMG Computing Services	686		\$ 474.39
29-07-2025	Matthews Maple Sugar - Suite	687		\$ 150.00
31-07-2025	Service Fees			\$ 14.25
	void	688		
01-08-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 70	689		\$ 9,262.17
12-08-2025	Sandra Minor - Buttertarts	690		\$ 432.00
15-08-2025	Mac Bain - reimbursement for the Suite Expenses	691		\$ 7,860.82
				\$ 83,330.63

# 8.2

FONOM			
Financial Summary			
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026			
as of August 14, 2025			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	26,786.77	8,213.23
AMO Reimbursements	\$ 6,500.00	1,662.53	4,837.47
NOHFC	\$ 50,000.00	-	50,000.00
Northern Suite at AMO	\$ 10,000.00	9,962.50	37.50
Investment Interest + Misc		-	-
Conference	\$ 60,000.00	12,427.00	47,573.00
Donations	\$ 5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 200,000.00	30,902.00	169,098.00
	366,500.00	91,740.80	274,759.20
Service Fees	\$ 275.00	80.75	194.25
Board Meetings	\$ 48,000.00	8,374.95	39,625.05
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	3,077.67	15,922.33
Provincial Committee Meetings	\$ 19,000.00	12,276.04	6,723.96
Advertising - Clark Communications	\$ 4,571.00	1,193.28	3,377.72
Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	-	1,100.00
General & Admin	\$ 16,500.00	7,354.61	9,145.39
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 7,000.00	-	7,000.00
Staff Wages	\$ 34,000.00	16,800.00	17,200.00
Staff Travel	\$ 5,000.00	1,456.48	3,543.52
Executive Honorarium	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Northern Hospitality Amo	\$ 14,000.00	8,525.29	5,474.71
Conference Expense	\$ 14,000.00	29,959.97	(15,959.97)
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 35,000.00	4,000.00	31,000.00
Catch n Release	\$ 5,000.00	474.39	4,525.61
SNOED Program	-	-	
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	227,446.00	93,573.43	133,872.57
	139,054.00	(1,832.63)	140,886.63