

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Present

D. Whalen, President

D. Plourde, 1st Vice President

L. Watson, 2nd Vice President

M. Horsfield, Director

S. Hollingsworth, Director

L. Carleton, Director

T. Kelly, Director

M. Signoretti, Director

Zoom

L. Feldman, Director

A. MacNevin, Director

R. Carrier, Director

Regrets

P. Lefebvre, Director

Guests

Marc Belanger & Peter O'Toole

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

President D. Whalen welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:41 am

1.0 Welcome and President's Report

Danny warmly welcomed both in-person and online participants before presenting his written report on activities since the August Board meeting (**pages 9**). His report highlighted several key items, including the number of media inquiries received during the period. Danny also announced that he will not be seeking re-election this term and took a moment to reflect on his time with the organization. President D. Plourde joined others in recognizing Danny's exceptional leadership over the past 15 years, as well as his thoughtful and respectful approach in working with colleagues and government partners. Dave said, "Danny, a genuinely kind and dedicated leader, has served FONOM with distinction for the past eight years as President." Danny will continue to serve on the Board until the next municipal election.

T. Kelly moved, **SECONDED** by **R. Carrier**, that the President's Report be received
MOTION CARRIED.

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M. Horsfield moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton**, that the Agenda be approved with additions
MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations

Marc Belanger and Peter O'Toole of BakerTilly joined the meeting to present the results of FONOM's 2024–2025 audit. They reviewed the audit findings and outlined their legal responsibilities as auditors, taking time to address questions from the Board. The auditors confirmed that FONOM received a clean audit, and noted that once the Board approves it, they will provide the final documentation to Mac.

D. Plourde moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that the 2024-2025 Audit to approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

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

S. Hollingsworth moved, **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly**, that the Minutes be accepted as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 M. Bain conducted the Board elections, during which Mayor Dave Plourde of Kapuskasing was acclaimed as President of FONOM. The Board also elected Deputy Mayor Maggie Horsfield of North Bay as First Vice-President and Mayor Lynn Watson of Echo Bay as Second Vice-President. Danny will continue to serve on the Executive as Past President.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – continued

- 5.2 M. Bain provided the Board with a briefing on FONOM’s delegation meetings held during the AMO Conference. He and Danny discussed the challenges members face in balancing participation in delegation meetings with attending conference sessions. M. Bain, Dave and Danny proposed a new approach for 2026, suggesting that FONOM and NOMA jointly hold two meetings annually — one at Queen’s Park and another on Parliament Hill. The concept includes arranging a one-hour multi-minister delegation to discuss three to four key issues. This format is expected to allow Ministers more time to understand and appreciate northern municipal concerns, compared to the brief, fast-paced sessions typically held at AMO or ROMA. Mac will report back to the Board in December, or sooner, following further discussions with NOMA and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).
- 5.3 M. Bain expressed his appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of FONOM’s Hospitality Suite at the AMO Conference. It was estimated that more than 650 people attended the event, including several Ministers, staff from Queen’s Park and many others. He noted that the evening was very well received and even generated revenue this year, with a few sponsor payments still pending. While alternative venues were considered for future events, it was determined that hosting elsewhere would be too costly. Given Deb’s current eyesight challenges, it was agreed that Maggie and Mac will take the lead in planning next year’s event. Maggie brings valuable experience from her time in student government and community initiatives.
- 5.4 D. Whalen updated the Board on recent progress related to the twinning and 2+1 initiatives for Highways 11 and 17. FONOM continues to collaborate closely with MP Pauline Rochefort, her team, and Mark Wilson on advancing this important project. A formal submission has been made to the Federal Government’s Major Projects Office (MPO), and an initial meeting has taken place with officials from the Department of Natural Resources.
- 5.5 FONOM previously established a Conference Reserve with **ONE Investment** to cover potential losses from conference cancellations.
- Therefore, it is resolved that FONOM will transfer \$34,638.35 into its Conference Reserve account, bringing the total to \$60,000.

L. Carleton moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that \$34,638.35 be transferred into the Conference Reserve Account

MOTION CARRIED.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Resolution Received – aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides in Crown forests
Municipality of West Nipissing and 5 other Municipalities

6.0 NEW BUSINESS - Resolutions for Action - continued

- 6.2 Resolution Received – Elect Respect – H.E.R. Support Resolution
Ville de Smooth Rock Falls and 1 other Municipality
- 6.3 Resolution Received – FONOM on Natural Gas Expansion - Project Cancellation
Municipality of St.-Charles and 3 other Municipalities
- 6.4 Resolution Received – Support for Armour Family Health Team
Municipality of Magnetawan
- 6.5 Resolution Received – A New Model of Administration in the West Parry Sound
Municipality of McDougall and 3 other Municipalities
- 6.6 Resolution Received – Canada Post/CUPW Labour Dispute
Township of Bonfield
- 6.7 Resolution Received – Support for Cameras in Community Safety Zones
Town of Parry Sound

7.0 Correspondence/Information Items

M. Horsfield moved, **seconded L. Carleton**, that all correspondence items be received for informational purposes.

- 7.1 Resolution Received – Request for Delegations at FONOM Annual Conference
- 7.2 Resolution Received – Support for National Highway 2+1
- 7.3 Resolution Received – Request for Exemption to Proposed Firefighter Certification
- 7.4 Resolution Received – Asking that the NORDS Pilot become permanent
- 7.5 Resolution Received – FONOM’s position on the Softwood Lumber Dispute
- 7.6 Letter Sent – Nation Building Project -Trans-Canada Highway
- 7.7 Media Release – FONOM Calls for Nation-Building Commitment
- 7.8 Media Release – Northern Highways
- 7.9 Letter Received – Thank you for meeting at AMO
- 7.10 Letter Received – Twinning of Highway 11 & 17
- 7.11 Media Release – Champion Highway 11/17 Twinning as a Nation-Building Priority
- 7.12 Resolution Received – EPR in the ICI sector
- 7.13 Letter Received and Media Release – Support to Sustain Kap Paper
- 7.14 Letter Received – Thank you for meeting at AMO
- 7.15 Letter Received – Opposition to the Planned Closure of Cecil Facer Youth Centre
- 7.16 Letter Received – Impact of food storage & distribution centre closures on NO
Workforce Planning for Sudbury and Manitoulin
- 7.17 Letter Received – securing a new softwood lumber agreement with the United States
- 7.18 Letter Sent – Nation-Building Proposal — Expansion of Highways 11 and 17
- 7.19 Receipt Received – 2025 Conference Donation
- 7.20 Letter of Support sent – A RoadSmart Workforce to Support Northern Development
- 7.21 Media Release – Forest Road Infrastructure Investment & Sawmill Chip Program
- 7.22 Letter to Premier and Media Release - Urgent Intervention is Required to Prevent the
idling of Kap Paper

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **M. Signoretti** moved, seconded by **S. Hollingsworth**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 10*) for August 1, 2025 – September 26, 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.2 **S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **R. Carrier**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 11*) ending September 26th, 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain reported that the final sponsorship payment for the 2026 Conference is expected shortly. He and D. Whalen met with the Timmins Conference Planning Team earlier in the week. Mac shared the survey results and Board feedback with the committee, which were well received. The next planning meeting is scheduled for December. Additionally, Mac shared that the delegate and exhibitor fees remain unchanged from before the COVID-19 pandemic.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Cochrane

D. Plourde shared that he remains concerned about the survival of KapPaper but noted that both the Federal and Provincial governments are now in discussions, which provides hope for a positive resolution. He expressed his appreciation for the strong support shown by FONOM and NOMA throughout the situation. Dave also shared positive news from Agrium Phosphate Project (now KAP Minerals) , noting that recent testing has shown the tailings to be rich in critical minerals and suitable for use in producing high-quality fertilizer.

District of Sudbury

M. Signoretti shared that the old hospital is finally being demolished, with plans for a new multi-residential and commercial development to begin soon on the site. He noted that the Mayor recently participated in the sod-turning ceremony for the new event centre and that the last Council meeting was held in the chambers before the upcoming renovations. Mark also mentioned that the Mayor recently presented to the Rotary Club on the City of Sudbury's wraparound service strategy aimed at addressing the opioid crisis, panhandling, and tent encampments in the community.

District of Algoma

L. Watson reported that the Algoma Municipal District Association meeting scheduled to take place in White River in September did not proceed due to a lack of quorum. Lynn noted that several communities in the region appear to be experiencing communication challenges. He also shared that many municipalities are expressing concern over the number of Beer Store closures, noting the potential environmental impact as empty containers may increasingly end up in local landfills.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS - continued

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton shared that the PSMA recently met in Orville, with strong attendance and productive discussions. During the meeting, there was broad support expressed for the proposed 2+1 highway initiative, and it was noted that the two new hospitals received a generous private donation of \$20 million. Communities voiced concerns about the recent closures of several Beer Store locations but offered positive feedback on the success of the ParaMedicine program and the recent Mental Health Walk. Many participants also expressed enthusiasm for the anticipated return of the Northlander train service. Lynda added that in her community of Machar, there have been issues with the new retaining wall at Eagle Lake, as well as environmental concerns regarding the 'White Sucker' fish population in a newly installed culvert.

City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingworth shared that Algoma Steel continues to face challenges related to tariffs and increased competition from foreign steel being imported into Canada. However, she noted a positive development in that the company has recently received both Federal and Provincial funding support. Sandra also reported that, after much discussion and effort, the old hospital is finally being demolished, marking a significant step forward for the community.

District of Nipissing

T. Kelly reported that the District continues to experience steady growth, with numerous new homes being built and several new businesses starting up. He noted that most of the new residents are younger families, which is a positive sign for the area's long-term vitality and community development.

City of North Bay

M. Horsfield shared the unfortunate news that Air Canada will be discontinuing its flights into North Bay's Jack Garland Airport in January. She noted that the City may need to consider providing operational support, though the airport manager is actively engaging in discussions with other potential carriers. Maggie also reported that the City has recently passed an updated Expense Policy, replacing the version from 2010. She added that staff continue to advance their understanding of the City's digitization initiatives and change management processes.

City of Greater Sudbury

R. Carrier shared that she has been busy opening her new store and has greatly enjoyed the experience. She also shared the joyful news that her family recently welcomed her first grandchild. Renée reported that the new senior housing complex in her community opened on time and on budget, with 23 of the units already rented and seven still available. She noted that St. Charles has unfortunately lost its natural gas funding. Additionally, she informed the Board that Marc Serr has been appointed as the new CAO for Markstay-Warren, and Marc Pilon has joined the Municipality of West Nipissing.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS - continued

District of Manitoulin

A. MacNevin reported that Manitoulin Island has experienced a significant decline in Great Lakes cruise ship visits this summer. He explained that the issue arises from U.S. regulations requiring cruises to start or end in the United States, and recent ICE raids have discouraged some companies from operating this season. While this has negatively impacted the Island's tourism and local economy—dropping from an average of 45 annual visits before COVID to only five in 2025—some view the reduction as a positive environmental outcome for the Great Lakes. Al also noted that the Manitoulin Municipal Association has not met recently.

City of Timmins

L. Feldman reported that the City continues to work closely with the Cochrane DSSAB on matters related to housing, shelters, and encampments. He shared that a new subdivision has been approved, and the next step is to search for a suitable developer. Lorne noted that the Connecting Link project is progressing well and, due to favourable weather, is expected to wrap up ahead of schedule. He also advised that construction has begun on the new ONR station and that the new Golden Manor nursing home is now fully occupied. Additionally, he mentioned that Air Canada has announced it will be reducing the number of scheduled flights beginning in September 2026.

District of Temiskaming

D. Whalen shared that Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is currently rebuilding the dam Matabitchuan River System and expanding the capacity of the local substation. He also reported that a wind energy company is exploring the use of agricultural land for new turbine sites within the region. Temiskaming Shores has expressed support for the project within its municipal boundaries, and the company is now awaiting approval from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 – D. Plourde had provided the Kap Paper update previously

10.2 – L. Watson questioned whether there is any approach the Board can take regarding the timing of Provincial announcements within communities. He noted that in the past, some projects were publicly announced only after completion, which created confusion among residents who observed construction and inquired about funding sources. Without an official announcement from the Province, municipalities are unable to comment on their involvement or acknowledge the funding support. Lynn expressed his frustration with this practice, emphasizing that such projects represent positive news stories for the Province and should be shared in a timely and coordinated manner.

11:0 IN CAMERA – see separate Minutes

12.0 NEXT MEETING, Friday, December 5, 2025, in Hearst.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT – **R. Carrier** moved, seconded by **L. Carleton**, that the Board meeting be adjourned at 12.03 pm.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF October 3rd, 2025

L. Carleton moved, seconded by **T. Kelly** that the Minutes be accepted as presented on Friday, December 5th, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

DRAFT

Presidents Report

August 20th to October 3rd, 2025

03 September - FONOM Zoom meeting with ADM Jeff Labonte

04 September - Follow up Zoom regarding ADM Zoom

05 September - Zoom with CCL Group - Infrastructure Projects Funding

08 September - Zoom meeting with Ontario Road Builders Association

15 September - ORBA - Summit Ideas

18 September - OFIA Lumber Tariffs Update

24 September - AMO Executive

25 September - AMO Executive - C of W meetings

26 September - AMO Board meeting

I have been overrun with media requests from the AMO conference.

FONOM has had media releases regarding the announcements by Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford regarding Bail Reform. Both announcements are encouraging, and we look forward to any changes in legislation.

FONOM has again been in contact with the Prime Minister regarding Lumber Tariffs and the impact on Northern Ontario.

FONOM further reached out to both the Prime Minister and Premier regarding the Kap Paper situation and potential for closure.

Finally, FONOM sent a project to the Build Canada Act action committee regarding highways 11 and 17. This has generated discussions with numerous federal ministers and staff members. We have a working group consisting of Mac Bain, Mark Wilson, Amanda St. Jean, MP Rochefort and me. Our proposal has been a topic at various working committees at the federal level. To date, provincial response has been limited. Media interest has been high, and we have received support letters from the Federal Liberal Northern Caucus, Truckers for Safer Highways, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association so far. Association of Municipalities Ontario, Ontario Federation of Agriculture Northern Caucus, Dairy Farmers of Ontario Region 12, Destination Northern Ontario, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Road Builders Association and verbal support from the NDP of Ontario.

It is suggested that FONOM work with ORBA to host a summit for the "Twinning-2+1" proposal. This summit would be held in the south due to the need for attendance by the most major political players.

All of these issues generated intense media calls. FONOM has been featured in print, radio, and television by local, provincial, and national news outlets.

8.1

List of Expenditures			
April 1 , 2025 - September 26, 2025			
30-07-2025	Service Fees		\$ 14.25
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
15-08-2025	Jamie McGarvey - Trestle Beer	692	\$ 184.98
15-08-2025	NOMA - Sleeping Giant Beer	693	\$ 306.76
17-08-2025	Dave Plourde - Aug board meeting + soapfor the Suite 20.42	695	\$ 2,242.98
17-08-2025	Al MacNevin - aug board meeting + Beer for Suite	696	\$ 1,397.23
19-08-2025	Deb Bain - Suite \$1,500 + twins \$250 each	697	\$ 2,000.00
19-08-2025	Sue Whalen - Suite	698	\$ 500.00
19-08-2025	Christine Plourde	699	\$ 200.00
22-08-2025	Mac Bain - Suite Expenses as of Aug 21	700	\$ 5,020.64
26-08-2025	Town of Kapuskasing - Dave AMO Registeration and Hotel	701	\$ 2,580.51
26-08-2025	Lynda Carleton - August Board Meeting	702	\$ 200.00
26-08-2025	Dave Plourde - Balance AMO	703	\$ 541.37
27-08-2025	Maggie Horsfield - August Board	704	\$ 970.47
27-08-2025	NEMI - Al's Hotel room	705	\$ 755.74
27-08-2025	Lynn Watson - August Board and Beer	706	\$ 2,554.52
29-08-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 71	707	\$ 4,816.08
02-09-2025	Danny Whalen - June, July & August	694	\$ 7,157.87
31-08-2025	Service Fees		\$ 24.25
12-09-2025	Good Gauley Production	708	\$ 26,933.55
16-09-2025	Clark Communications - Websiet help	709	\$ 237.30
23-09-2025	Deb Bain - Rent July-September	710	\$ 1,200.00
26-09-2025	Mac Bain - Statement 72	711	3,456.36
			\$ 80,849.85

8.2

FONOM			
Financial Summary			
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026			
as of September 26, 2025			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue			
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	26,963.17	8,036.83
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	10,562.50	(562.50)
Investment Interest + Misc		-	-
Conference	\$ 60,000.00	79,768.62	(19,768.62)
Donations	\$ 5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 200,000.00	30,902.00	169,098.00
	<u>366,500.00</u>	<u>159,858.82</u>	<u>206,641.18</u>
Service Fees	\$ 275.00	105.00	170.00
Board Meetings	\$ 48,000.00	13,836.39	34,163.61
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	6,880.65	12,119.35
Provincial Committee Meetings	\$ 19,000.00	22,133.90	(3,133.90)
Advertising - Clark Communications	\$ 4,571.00	1,193.28	3,377.72
Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	-	1,100.00
General & Admin	\$ 16,500.00	8,984.63	7,515.37
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 7,000.00	-	7,000.00
Staff Wages	\$ 34,000.00	23,520.00	10,480.00
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	17,375.80	(3,375.80)
Conference Expense	\$ 14,000.00	29,959.97	(15,959.97)
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 35,000.00	30,933.55	4,066.45
Catch n Release	\$ 5,000.00	474.39	4,525.61
SNOED Program	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	<u>227,446.00</u>	<u>156,854.04</u>	<u>70,591.96</u>
	<u>139,054.00</u>	<u>3,004.78</u>	<u>136,049.22</u>