

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Friday, December 5, 2025

Present

D. Whalen, Past President

L. Watson, 2nd Vice President

M. Horsfield, 1st Vice President

S. Hollingsworth, Director

Zoom

D. Plourde, President

L. Carleton, Director

T. Kelly, Director

L. Feldman, Director

A. MacNevin, Director

R. Carrier, Director

Regrets

P. Lefebvre, Director

M. Signoretti, Director

L. Feldman, Director

Guests

Michael Bonner, Atlas Strategic Advisors

Andrew Jack, Maximus

Andrew Bailey, Maximus

Suzanne Mills, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair, McMaster University

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

Due to an MOU meeting at Queen's Park on Thursday, December 4, and yesterday's weather, President D. Plourde welcomed everyone remotely and asked Maggie to chair the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:41 am

1.0 Welcome and President's Report

President Dave Plourde was pleased to present his First President's Report, welcomed all participants to the meeting, including those attending virtually, and extended a special welcome to members attending in person in Hearst. President Plourde noted that the past several months has been hectic, with extensive travel and a series of productive meetings held in both Toronto and Ottawa. These discussions have been positive and have advanced FONOM's key advocacy priorities. Members were invited to direct any questions to the President regarding his written report on activities since October, as circulated in the meeting package (page 8). President Plourde also highlighted the significant media coverage FONOM has received in recent months, noting that this exposure has helped elevate FONOM's policy priorities and strengthen the organization's voice on issues affecting Northern Ontario municipalities.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

S. Hollingsworth moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Whalen**, that the Agenda be approved with additions

MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations

Andrew Bailey and Andrew Jack of Maximus Canada delivered a presentation to the Board outlining the company's business philosophy and experience working with government clients. They highlighted several public-sector customers and provided an overview of Maximus' approach to service delivery and operational improvement. The presenters then shared a case study of their work with the City of Timmins, walking the Board through the municipality's operational challenges, the rationale for changes implemented, and the resulting outcomes.

Board members discussed the potential for groups of municipalities to collaborate on bulk purchasing initiatives. The presentation also acknowledged the diversity of municipal operations, noting that different departments deliver a wide range of services.

Professor Suzanne Mills presented her report, Shifting Grounds: Understanding Recent Interregional Migration to the Maritimes and Northern Ontario, to the Board (<https://fonom.org/shifting-grounds...northern-ontario/>). She thanked FONOM for its assistance in connecting her with participants in Northeastern Ontario. She outlined how longstanding patterns of internal migration toward major urban centres shifted during the COVID-19 period, with increased movement to more affordable regions such as Northern Ontario and the Maritimes. Her study, based on census and administrative data and interviews with inter-regional migrants and

3.0 Timed Delegations - continued

Northeastern Ontario. She noted that migrants were generally similar to the pre-existing population, though somewhat younger, more highly educated, and more likely to work remotely. Key motivations included housing affordability, proximity to family, quality of life, and health and well-being, rather than higher-paying employment. Professor Mills reported that while many migrants experienced improved quality of life, others faced challenges related to employment, housing availability, access to healthcare, and community integration. Community leaders viewed in-migration as bringing both economic and social benefits, while also creating pressures on housing, services, and infrastructure.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE October 3, 2025, BOARD MEETING

L. Carleton 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 provided an update on his efforts to establish a “FONOM Day” at Queen’s Park and outlined a proposed concept for how such an event could be structured. Mac and Dave also shared observations from the recent joint FONOM and NOMA Hill Days in Ottawa, highlighting key takeaways from meetings with federal officials and the value of coordinated advocacy on shared Northern Ontario priorities.
- 5.2 M. Bain and D. Whalen updated the Board on recent activities related to the twinning and 2+1 initiatives for Highways 11 and 17. FONOM continues to work collaboratively with MP Pauline Rochefort, her team, and Mark Wilson to advance this priority project. It was noted that FONOM’s submission to the federal Major Projects Office (MPO) was not accepted, as the Province of Ontario was not identified as the project proponent. Staff advised that a letter will be sent to the Premier outlining feedback from the federal government and next steps to advance the twinning and/or 2+1 highway initiative.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Resolution Received – Swim-to-Survive training
Municipality of Magnetawan
- 6.2 Resolution Received – Incineration and a more robust recycling program
Municipality of Magnetawan

Mac is to reach out to Tom Vair from the City of Sault Ste Marie to discuss their experience looking at fuel-from-waste

6.0 NEW BUSINESS – continued

6.3 Resolution Received – Small Northern New Residential Property Tax Class and Subclass
Municipality of Wawa

6.4 Letter and Resolution Received – Northern College
Town of Kirkland Lake and one other Municipality

S. Hollingsworth moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Whalen**, that a letter of support be sent supporting Ontario Post Secondary Institutions, and that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) send a Resolution that formally recognizes the positive contributions to the economic development of Northern Ontario Colleges;

MOTION CARRIED.

6.5 Resolution Received – Supporting Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Upper Beaver Project
Town of Kirkland Lake and one other Municipality

6.6 Resolution Received – Transparent public review of Canada Post
Town of Kapuskasing

D. Plourde moved, **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly**, that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities formally writes the Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Joel Lightbound, to demand that no mandate review takes place until Canada Post returns to stabilized operations, until the full impact of the stamp price increase is realized, and until parcel volumes reflect sectoral demand. That the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities urges Minister Lightbound to ensure that any review of Canada Post and the Canadian Postal Service Charter must be done through a full and thorough transparent public review of Canada Post, including public hearings, with all key stakeholders, in every region of Canada. That the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities wishes to participate in hearings to provide input in the upcoming mandate review of Canada Post.

MOTION CARRIED.

6.7 Resolution Received – Accessible and Effective Alcohol Container Return System
Municipality of Wawa and four other Municipalities

R. Carrier moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Carleton**, that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities supports the establishment of an accessible, province-wide, and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that:

MOTION CARRIED.

6.8 Resolution Received - Rent Protection for Tenants
Municipality of Wawa

6.9 Resolution Received - Upholding Women's Rights, Leadership, and
Environmental Health in the Implementation of Bill 5
Municipality of Wawa

6.0 NEW BUSINESS – continued

- 6.10 Resolution Received - Preserving Beer Stores in small, rural & northern communities
Municipality of Killarney

L. Watson moved, **SECONDED** by **D. Plourde**, that a Resolution of support stating that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities request that the Provincial Government take the steps necessary to preserve the presence of The Beer Store in small, rural and northern communities and that it request that The Beer Store reconsider its decision to close additional Beer Stores in Ontario, especially in small, northern communities.

MOTION CARRIED.

7.0 Correspondence/Information Items

S. Hollingsworth moved, **seconded** by **L. Watson**, that all correspondence items be received for informational purposes.

- 7.1 Resolution Received – Support St. Charles Natural Gas Expansion
7.2 Resolution Received – Canada Post Labour Dispute and Impact on Municipal Communications
7.3 Resolution Received – NORDS Pilot Program
7.4 Resolution Received – Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter
7.5 Resolution Received – Strengthening the Municipal Code of Conduct
7.6 Invitation Sent – Hill Days
7.7 Letter Received – Recognition of Danny Whalen’s Tenure with FONOM
7.8 Resolution Received – Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate
7.9 Media Release Received – Statement from Ontario’s Forest Sector
7.10 Letter Received – Municipal Infrastructure Funding in Upcoming Federal Budget
7.11 Resolution Received – Support for the Twp of the Archipelago about Maga Schools
7.12 Resolution Received – Twinning and 2+1
7.13 Letter Received – Bail Reform
Mac to send a letter to Minister Fraser and include Minister Kerzner, thanking them for their efforts and encouraging continued dialogue between all orders of government regarding the intersection of public safety, mental health, and severe substance use disorders.
7.14 Report Received – Homeless Individuals Coming to Nipissing PiT Report 2025
7.15 Letter Received – Natural Resources Regulatory and Permit Reform Initiative

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **D. Whalen** moved, seconded by **A. MacNevin**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 9*) for October 2025 & November 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.2 **S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **L. Watson**, that the Board, following questions, receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 10*) ending November 25th, 2025

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain updated the Board of the Delegation FONOM had requested during the ROMA Conference. He shared that the Province has created a new process that Mac believed fixes the issues during AMO.
- 8.4 M. Bain shared the suggested 2026 Board meeting dates with the Board, noting that with the October Municipal Election, the meetings in October and December may be virtual.
- 8.5 M. Bain updated the Board that the IESO and the Government are looking at the validity of the 30-some Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), through the PULSE process, as there are limited LDCs in Northeastern Ontario. Hence, the Board received this as information.
- 8.6 M. Bain shared the request by Cogeco for a letter of support to the CRTC, sharing the importance of Local Cable Television.
D. Whalen moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that a strongly worded Letter of support be sent to the CRTC, sharing the importance of Local Cable Television
- MOTION CARRIED.**
- 8.7 S. Hollinsworth shared the issue of the Conservation Authority amalgamation. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board noted that it will monitor the process.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

Due to the weather and time, no regional reports were provided

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 – M. Bain shared the Nipissing District SSAB, Count in Time with the Board. Mac noted that each district does this, and the number of Homeless from outside the Nipissing is concerning.
- 10.2 – M. Bain asked permission from the Board to undertake a Project with the Labour Councils within the Northeast, on a Member Survey on Municipal Job Vacancies, recruitment Challenges and Workforce Pressures. Mac shared a mock survey with the Board, and members suggested avenues for examination. The Board approved moving forward with this project.
- 10.3 - M. Bain shared with the Board that FONOM had received an email from the Ministry of Finance, asking for pre-budget consultation ideas for the 2026 Budget. Following a discussion, the board recommended that we share our Police formula suggestion and the recommendation to streamline the process to annex Crown Land and unorganized adjacent to Municipalities to create an economic zone or housing.
- 10.4 - M. Bain shared the North Bay City Police report “The Birth of Change”. Following the discussion, the Board will await the draft Resolution from the Police Service for consideration.

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS – continued

10.5 - M. Bain informed the Board that Nipissing University is working with the Municipal Planners Association to create a Planners Program. This will help address the shortage in Ontario. One of the program's unique features will be a specialty in Indigenous Consultation.

11:0 IN CAMERA – see separate Minutes

12.0 NEXT MEETING, Sunday, January 18, 2026, in Toronto.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT – **D. Plourde** moved, seconded by **D. Whalen** that the Board meeting be adjourned at 11:47 am.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF December 5th, 2025

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

MOTION CARRIED.



President Danny Whalen

December 4, 2025

President's Report – Dave Plourde

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

Colleagues,

It is an honour to deliver my first President's Report since taking on the role with FONOM. Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to represent our organization at several important meetings, events, and advocacy tables. I am pleased to provide the following update on our work and ongoing efforts to advance municipalities' priorities across Northeastern Ontario.

AMO Engagement

Since stepping into the role, I have participated in several AMO Executive Committee meetings and my first AMO Board meeting as President. These discussions continue to reinforce the importance of ensuring Northern needs are understood and reflected in AMO's broader policy and advocacy efforts. I was also pleased to take part in my second Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meeting with the Province, where we provided direct input on issues that impact communities throughout the North.

Ministerial Outreach & Media Engagement

FONOM continues to maintain strong relationships with provincial decision-makers. Over the past month, I have had the chance to speak directly with various Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants on files central to Northern Ontario, including transportation, housing, community safety, and economic development. Additionally, I have completed several media interviews to ensure the challenges and opportunities facing our region remain front and centre in public discussions.

Industry Partnerships

Strengthening partnerships with sector organizations remains a priority. I have been working closely with the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) on shared issues related to resource development, northern employment, and forest sector competitiveness. I also had the pleasure of attending the OFIA Christmas Reception, which provided a valuable opportunity to connect with industry leaders, stakeholders, and government officials.

Northern Ontario Hill Days – Ottawa

Most recently, I joined our colleagues at NOMA for **Northern Ontario Hill Days** in Ottawa. Over two days, our joint delegation met with federal Ministers, MPs from all parties, senior staff, and key officials to advocate for the issues that matter to Northern municipalities. We presented a strong, unified message on priorities such as:

- Strengthening the Trans-Canada Highway system
- Addressing labour shortages through Northern-focused immigration solutions
- Ensuring meaningful bail reform and enhancing community safety
- Supporting resource development and critical mineral opportunities

Our collective voice was well-received, and we will continue building on this momentum in the months ahead.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I am committed to ensuring FONOM remains a strong, proactive advocate for the North, working closely with our members, partners, and all orders of government. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

8.1

List of Expenditures			
September 26, 2025 - November 25, 2025			
30-09-2025	Service Fees		\$ 21.75
03-10-2025	VOID	712	\$ -
03-10-2025	Terry Kelly - August & October board meetings	902	\$ 886.00
03-10-2025	Maggie Horsefield - October Board Meeting	903	\$ 641.00
03-10-2025	Danny Whalen -Sept, October Meetings, plus Board	904	\$ 7,063.40
03-10-2025	Dave Plourde - October Board Meeting & Honouraium	905	\$ 2,410.84
03-10-2025	Mark Signoretti - October Board Meeting	906	\$ 666.20
03-10-2025	Lynda Carleton - October Board Meeting	907	\$ 569.00
03-10-2025	Lynn Watson - October Board Meeting	908	\$ 1,155.60
2025-10-09	Sandra Hollingsworth - Aug and Oct board meeting	909	\$ 2,213.00
2025-10-06	Mac Bain - Board and Conference meetings	910	\$ 4,526.84
06-Oct	Northern Policy Institute - SNOED	911	\$ 5,075.00
2025-10-15	Transfer to Conference Reserve - ONE Investment		\$ 34,638.35
2025-10-16	EFT - City of NB - Rural Ontario Medical Exhibitor		\$ 1,300.00
2025-10-24	Mac Bain - Statement 73	912	\$ 5,727.66
2025-10-31	Service Fees		\$ 20.50
2025-11-21	Mac Bain - Statement 74	913	\$ 4,090.90
			\$ 71,006.04

8.2

FONOM			
Financial Summary			
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026			
as of November 26, 2025			
	Budget	YTD	Variance
Revenue			
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	28,065.65	6,934.35
AMO Reimbursements	\$ 6,500.00	5,063.42	1,436.58
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	81,068.62	(21,068.62)
Donations + Tax Return	\$ 5,000.00	20,222.06	(15,222.06)
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 200,000.00	30,902.00	169,098.00
	366,500.00	175,884.25	190,615.75
Service Fees	\$ 275.00	147.25	127.75
Board Meetings	\$ 48,000.00	25,939.31	22,060.69
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	9,854.85	9,145.15
		132.92	(6,332.92)
		.93.28	3,377.72
Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	-	1,100.00
General & Admin	\$ 16,500.00	9,601.74	6,898.26
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 7,000.00	-	7,000.00
Staff Wages	\$ 34,000.00	30,240.00	3,760.00
Staff Travel	\$ 5,000.00	1,456.48	3,543.52
Executive Honorarium	\$ 5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Northern Hospitality Amo	\$ 14,000.00	17,432.62	(3,432.62)
Conference Expense	\$ 14,000.00	31,714.73	(17,714.73)
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 35,000.00	30,933.55	4,066.45
Catch n Release	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
SNOED Program	-	5,075.00	
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	227,446.00	191,921.73	40,599.27
	139,054.00	(16,037.48)	150,016.48