

March 6, 2026

**Honourable David McGuinty**  
Minister of National Defense  
National Defence Headquarters  
101 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2  
SENT BY EMAIL: [david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca)

### **Strengthening Canada's National Resilience – Highway 11 as Strategic Infrastructure**

Dear Minister McGuinty,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), representing 110 municipalities across Northern Ontario, I am writing to highlight the growing importance of Highway 11 as a strategic national corridor and to encourage the Government of Canada to consider its role within Canada's defence and national resilience framework.

Highway 11 forms a critical component of Canada's northern transportation network and serves as a vital complement to the Trans-Canada Highway 17 corridor. Together, these routes connect Western and Eastern Canada, support the movement of goods and people, and provide essential access to resource-rich regions central to Canada's economic future.

From a national security perspective, the importance of redundancy and reliability in transportation infrastructure cannot be overstated. Northern Ontario's highways support the movement of equipment, personnel, and supplies across vast distances, linking mining regions, energy infrastructure, and emerging critical mineral developments that are increasingly important to Canada's economic and strategic interests.

Highway 11, in particular, serves as an east-west alternative corridor that strengthens the resilience of Canada's national transportation system. When disruptions occur along the Trans-Canada corridor, the ability to rely on additional northern routes becomes essential to maintaining national connectivity.

At the same time, Northern Ontario is poised to play a significant role in Canada's critical minerals and energy supply chains, including projects linked to the electric vehicle battery sector and future northern development opportunities. Strengthening transportation infrastructure serving these regions will be essential not only for economic development but also for ensuring secure and reliable supply chains for industries of national importance.

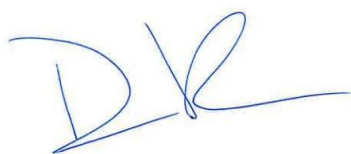
For these reasons, FONOM believes there is a strong case for the Government of Canada to work in partnership with the Province of Ontario to modernize and expand key sections of Highway 11, including advancing multi-lane improvements where appropriate. Investments that improve safety, reliability, and capacity along this corridor would strengthen Canada's economic

resilience while supporting the infrastructure needed to respond to evolving defence and security considerations.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and to explore how Northern Ontario's transportation corridors can contribute to Canada's long-term national infrastructure and defence planning.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to strengthening Canada's national infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Dave Plourde  
President, FONOM

Cc'd Prime Minister Mark Carney

Hon. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport

Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for FedNor

Hon. Stephen Fuhr, Secretary of State Defence Procurement

Sherry Romanado, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence

Jenna Sudds, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State Defence Procurement

Pauline Rochefort, MP Nipissing-Timiskaming and Parliamentary Secretary Rural Development

Viviane Lapointe, MP Sudbury, Chair Northern Ontario Caucus and Member Standing Committee on National Defence

Rick Dumas, President NOMA