

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Friday, March 20th, 2026

Present

D. Plourde, President

A. MacNevin, Director

M. Horsfield, 1st Vice President

D. Whalen, Past President

Zoom

S. Hollingsworth, Director

R. Carrier, Director

L. Carleton, Director

T. Kelly, Director

L. Watson, 2nd Vice President

Regrets

L. Feldman, Director

P. Lefebvre, Director

M. Signoretti, Director

Guests

Patrick Chouinard, Housing using Mass Timber and Panels

David McNeil, Health Sciences North, President and CEO

MP Gaétan Malette, Kapuskasing-Timmins-Mushkegowuk

Staff

M. Bain, Executive Director

1.0 Welcome and President's Report

President Dave Plourde shared his written President's report (Page 8) with the Board, expanding on the amount of Media attention the organization's efforts are getting.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

R. Carrier moved, **SECONDED** by **L. Watson**, that the Agenda be approved with additions
MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations

Patrick Chouinard of Element5 provided an overview of innovative mass timber and panelized construction methods, highlighting their potential to address housing needs in Northern Ontario. Using a time-lapse example from a YWCA project in Kitchener, he demonstrated how quickly these buildings can be assembled once materials arrive on site, significantly reducing construction timelines. Mr. Chouinard emphasized the opportunity to pair this approach with local capacity-building by working with Northern and Indigenous communities—bringing in specialized expertise initially, while prioritizing local contractors and trades to develop long-term skills, create jobs, and build sustainable construction capacity within the region.

David McNeil, President and CEO of Health Sciences North, provided an overview of the organization's critical role as the specialized care, research, and teaching hospital for Northeastern Ontario. Serving a vast region of approximately 600,000 people across 300,000 square kilometres, Health Sciences North delivers highly specialized surgical care, supports regional dialysis services through multiple satellite sites, and utilizes virtual care to help patients remain in their home communities. Mr. McNeil highlighted the hospital's significant economic impact, workforce, and partnerships across the North, while also noting the growing pressures on the healthcare system due to an aging and more complex population. Despite operating efficiently with comparatively fewer resources than southern counterparts, he emphasized the urgent need for expanded capacity and infrastructure to meet future healthcare demands across the region.

MP Gaétan Malette (Kapusking–Timmins–Mushkegowuk) spoke to the FONOM Board about the strong federal opportunity to advance improvements to the Highway 11 corridor as part of a broader, nation-building initiative. He emphasized that the scale of economic activity—estimated at approximately \$200 million per day moving along these routes—positions the project as one of national importance, tied not only to economic growth but also to supply chain resilience and national security. Malette highlighted that federal funding tools, such as the Trade Diversification Corridor Fund, are already in place and designed to support projects of this nature, suggesting that with coordinated provincial and federal alignment, progress is achievable. He also encouraged broad regional support, noting that even communities not directly on the corridor benefit from its reliability, and expressed strong confidence that continued advocacy and collaboration will lead to positive outcomes.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE January 18th, 2026, BOARD MEETING

L. Watson 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 the Board with an update on planning for the upcoming FONOM Conference, including the coordination of Ministerial Delegations. He advised that delegation requests have been refined to focus on resolutions being presented at the Annual General Meeting, as well as a requested meeting with the Premier. Mac also noted that discussions are ongoing with ministries to confirm participation. With respect to conference hospitality, he indicated that the reception menu will be limited to options available through the venue's kitchen and will not include Northern Ontario-specific food or craft beer selections.
- 5.2 D. Plourde and M. Bain provided the Board with an update on FONOM's recent advocacy efforts related to the twinning of Highways 11 and 17 and broader highway safety improvements across Northern Ontario. They highlighted ongoing engagement with provincial and federal partners, including meetings with Ministers and staff, as well as efforts to elevate the issue through coordinated media outreach and stakeholder collaboration. Dave noted that FONOM continues to advance a combination of solutions, including four-laning, 2+1 models, and targeted safety enhancements, while reinforcing the corridor's importance to economic development, supply chains, and public safety. Mac also referenced recent provincial announcements on enforcement and safety measures as positive steps, while emphasizing the need for sustained, long-term investment and coordinated action.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - continued

- 5.3 M. Bain advised the Board that he has reached out to the President of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) to request a discussion aimed at strengthening the relationship between the organizations. He noted that a direct outreach from the President had previously been suggested; however, no such contact has occurred to date. Mac further indicated that the NOSM President is scheduled to speak at the upcoming FONOM Conference and, should a discussion not take place in advance, he has identified several questions that could be raised at that time.
- 5.4 M. Bain provided the Board with a brief update on preparations for the upcoming FONOM Annual Conference. He noted that the City of Timmins organizing team is doing an excellent job in planning and coordinating the event. M. Bain advised that additional details and updates will be shared with the Board between meetings as preparations continue.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Resolution Received – The Birth of Change
Township of St. Joseph and eight other Municipalities
- 6.2 Resolution Received – Sustainable Police Funding
Municipality of Magnetawan and two other Municipalities
- 6.3 Resolution Received – InterLibrary Book Rates with Canada Post
Town of Kirkland Lake
- 6.4 Resolution Received – Closure of Testing Lab at LifeLabs Sudbury
Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and 28 other Municipalities
- 6.5 Resolution Received – Bell Canada to review and revise its dedicated fibre
Municipality of Magnetawan and one other Municipality
- 6.6 Resolution Received – reclassify Highways 11 and 17 as Class 1 highways
Town of Kapuskasing and one other Municipality
- 6.7 Resolution Received – - Driver’s Licence reinstatement process in northern Ontario.
Town of Hearst
- 6.8 Resolution Received - legislative changes to OMERS through Bill 68
Municipality of Magnetawan and one other organization
- 6.9 Resolution Received – Recommendation for Food and Housing Affordability
Municipality of Mattawan and five other resolutions
- 6.10 Resolution Received - School Bus Safety and Stop Arm
Municipality of Wawa and two other Municipality
- 6.11 Resolution Received - The rising costs of operating these smaller Water Treatment Plants
Town of Northeastern Manitoulin And the Islands
- 6.12 Resolution & Letter Received - Justice and Protection of Canada's Children
Township of Prince
- 6.13 Resolution & Letter Received - Reforming & Publication of the Ontario Sex Offenders Registry
Township of Prince
- 6.14 Resolution Received – Public Health Levy Increase
Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and 3 other Municipality

The Board asked M. Bain to investigate the issue and communicate with Minister Kinga Surma (Ministry of Infrastructure). He is to explain the importance of the annual OCIP funding, which addresses Northern Municipalities' infrastructure deficit.

7.0 Correspondence/Information Items

T. Kelly moved, **seconded** by **R. Carrier**, that all correspondence items be received for informational purposes.

- 7.1 Letter Received – Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative
- 7.2 Resolution Received – Regarding New Tax Rates for Northern Ontario Municipalities.
- 7.3 Resolution Received – Highway Safety, follow-up letter to MTO
- 7.4 Resolution Received – Support for Steel and Lumber Sectors
- 7.5 Resolution Received – Spraying of Glyphosates
- 7.6 Resolution Received – Advocacy on Improvements to Highways 11 and 17.
- 7.7 Resolution Received – Criteria for Site Readiness Funding
- 7.8 Resolution Received – A collective call for coordinated provincial and federal action to sustain investment in affordable and supportive housing, mental health and addictions services, and income supports to battle the accelerating homelessness crisis in Northern Ontario.
- 7.9 Thank you Letter received – Meeting during ROMA
- 7.10 Thank you Letter received – Meeting during ROMA
- 7.11 Resolution Received - Robust recycling program and investigating use of incineration
- 7.12 Thank you Letter received – Meeting during ROMA
- 7.13 Resolution Received - Ontario's Colleges to Strengthen our Economy & Protect Ontario
- 7.14 Letter Received - Request for Support
- 7.15 Resolution Received - Opposition to Closure of Cecil Facer Youth Centre

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **D. Whalen** moved, seconded by **L. Carleton**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures (*Attached Page 9*) for January – March 12, 2026

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.2 **S. Hollingsworth** moved, seconded by **M. Horsfield**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 10*) ending March 12, 2026

MOTION CARRIED.

- 8.3 M. Bain updated the Board that the 2026-2027 Memberships are on schedule to be sent out on March 31st. Also, that per our constitution, memberships will increase by 5% next year following the municipal election. Plus, we will be doing a population review to ensure your community is in the correct fee category.

- 8.4 M. Bain presented the proposed 2026–2027 FONOM budget for the Board's consideration, outlining key assumptions and projected revenues and expenditures. He noted the proposed use of a one-time draw from reserves to support Queen's Park Days, along with several options to achieve cost savings. M. Bain also highlighted that the 2026 Conference in Timmins has secured strong sponsorship and exhibitor participation, which explains the anticipated 25% increase in revenue compared to previous years. Following a lengthy discussion and clarifications provided by Mac. **L. Watson** moved, seconded by **S. Hollingsworth**, that the Board approve the FONOM Budget for 2026-2027 (*Attached Page ___*) ending March 31st, 2027.

- 8.5 M. Bain noted he is working on the SNOED program

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Temiskaming

D. Whalen noted that the Temiskaming Municipal Association is meeting next week, sharing that snow and highways will monopolize the conversation. Danny mentioned that School Buses in the District will no longer stop on Highway 11 because it is unsafe for students.

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton shared that the former brewery site in South River may be repurposed, generating local interest. Lynda also shared that the anticipated return of the Northlander rail service, including a stop in South River, has been well-received by the community. L. Carleton advised that some proposed developments in the area are experiencing considerable pushback from residents. She further noted that the Townships of Armour and Burk's Falls have announced the construction of a new fire hall. Additionally, community members are strongly supporting the National Special Olympics, with a local baseball team participating.

District of Sudbury

R. Carrier noted that the Health Unit levy increase is concerning and that the Province has only increased its payment by 1%. Renée also noted that the snow has led to numerous closures in her area, affecting people and businesses.

City of North Bay

M. Horsfield shared that the City's Blue Box recycling provider continues to deliver strong service, with plans underway to transition to larger-volume bins later this year to improve capacity and convenience for residents. Maggie noted that the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority expressed appreciation for FONOM's recent media release regarding conservation authority amalgamation, indicating it was well received locally. She advised that preparations for the upcoming municipal election are progressing well; however, questions remain regarding the administration of school board elections following the Province's assumption of control of the Near North District School Board, and further provincial guidance is being sought. M. Horsfield also highlighted that FedNor will be hosting a workshop focused on the defence sector, noting this as a timely opportunity that may be worth highlighting during the FONOM Conference.

District of Manitoulin

A. MacNevin reported that NEMI is having several discussions with its downtown business community regarding ICI recycling. Previously some of the DIA's recycling was included with the Residential Bluebooks stream. The major cost of offering the service to Downtown is transportation. The Community has a new landfill but does not want to fill it with a recycled product.

District of Algoma

L. Watson reported that the Algoma District Municipal Association (ADMA) is scheduled to meet on April 18. He advised that communities across the region continue to face significant challenges related to heavy snowfall and frequent highway closures. L. Watson emphasized that these ongoing conditions are affecting mobility and creating challenges for residents and service providers.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS – continued

District of Cochrane

D. Plourde noted that he spoke at the recent NEOMA meeting, updating the region on the Board activities.

City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingsworth shared that the City Council has transitioned to meeting once per month. She advised that Dr. Sibbel will be retiring, with a Nurse Practitioner continuing to provide care in the community. S. Hollingsworth also indicated that she will be bringing forward a resolution to develop a regional economic and tourism strategy. She highlighted that the Brier will be hosted in Sault Ste. Marie in April, with charitable proceeds supporting Hope Air. Additionally, she noted that a recent study may indicate the City has an oversupply of affordable housing.

District of Nipissing

T. Kelly provided a regional update, noting that the Municipality of East Ferris is moving forward with a new housing development consisting of 35 oversized lots. The Board received the update for information.

City of Timmins – No Report provided

City of Greater Sudbury – No Report provided

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 S. Hollingsworth expressed concern regarding the Premier's current stance on Freedom of Information requests. Following the discussion, the Board agreed to continue monitoring the issue and to explore potential alignment with AMO and ROMA as opportunities arise.

11:0 IN CAMERA - none

12.0 NEXT MEETING, Sunday, May 10th, 2026, in Timmins.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT – **D. Whalen** moved, seconded by **L. Watson**, that the Board meeting be adjourned at 11:48 pm.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF March 20th, 2026

L. Watson moved, seconded by **R. Carrier** that the Minutes be accepted as presented on Sunday, May 10th, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Dave Plourde

President's Report

Dave Plourde – FONOM Board Meeting

March 20, 2026

Good morning, everyone,

Since our last Board meeting at the ROMA Conference in January, FONOM has continued working on several issues that are important to our member municipalities across Northern Ontario.

As you would expect, a significant amount of our attention has been focused on the safety and long-term improvements needed on Highways 11 and 17. We have continued conversations with provincial ministers and their staff about improving safety along the corridor and advancing the long-term goal of multi-laning key sections of the highway.

FONOM has also been working closely with our colleagues at NOMA to ensure that Northern Ontario municipalities speak with one voice on this issue. As part of that effort, Mac and others recently met with the editorial board of *The Globe and Mail* to highlight the national importance of Northern highways and their role in connecting the country and supporting our economy.

We have also continued discussions with provincial and federal partners about infrastructure funding and the role both levels of government will need to play in modernizing this corridor.

Planning is moving along well for the **2026 FONOM Conference in Timmins from May 11–13**. The planning committee continues to meet regularly with staff from the City of Timmins and Tourism Timmins to finalize the program, speakers, and trade show. We're pleased that Jamie Campbell from Sportsnet's Blue Jays Central will be joining us as our keynote speaker.

FONOM is also continuing to build on the success of the **GoNorth video series**, which promotes Northern Ontario as a great place to live, work, and invest. The videos have now been viewed nearly two million times, and we're exploring additional videos focused on key Northern industries.

Before closing, I want to thank all of you for the work you continue to do representing your communities and contributing to the work of FONOM.

Thank you.

8.1

List of Expenditures

January 9, 2026 - March 12, 2026

15-01-2026	Town of Kap - Dave's Expenses, AMO, MOU & Hill	932	\$ 4,265.86
15-01-2026	CMG Computing Services	933	\$ 474.39
18-01-2026	Mac Expenses jan 1-15	934	\$ 7,495.49
18-01-2026	Al MacNevin - January Board	935	\$ 813.64
18-01-2026	Maggie Horsfield - January Board	936	\$ 1,150.52
18-01-2026	Sandra Hollingsworth - January Board	937	\$ 1,032.56
22-01-2026	Renée Carrier - January Board	938	\$ 200.00
22-01-2026	Lynda Carleton - January Board	939	\$ 200.00
23-01-2026	Town of Kapuskasing - Board, ROMA Reg & Hotel	940	\$ 2,106.93
23-01-2026	Lynn Watson - January Board & ROMA	941	\$ 1,691.23
23-01-2026	Maggie Horsfield - Balance of Board & ROMA	942	\$ 400.00
23-01-2026	Dave Plourde - Board and ROMA	943	\$ 2,959.70
	VOID	944	\$ -
30-01-2026	Mac Bain - Board meeting and ROMA Conference	945	\$ 5,154.49
31-01-2026	Mac Bain - Statement 1	946	\$ 5,416.66
31-01-2026	Service Fees		\$ 26.75
02-02-2026	Dave Plourde - January, AMO Executive & Board Meeting	947	\$ 1,682.47
03-02-2026	Town of Kapuskasing - Funeral Flowers (Jamie Davies)	948	\$ 155.80
05-02-2026	NEMI - Al's Hotel room	949	\$ 205.98
15-02-2026	Mac Bain - FONOM Expenses Jan 15- Feb 15	950	\$ 4,033.73
27-02-2026	NPI - SNOED	951	\$ 5,220.00
28-02-2026	Mac Bain Statement 2	952	\$ 5,416.66
28-02-2026	Service Fees		\$ 18.00

8.2

FONOM			
Financial Summary			
April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026			
as of March 6, 2026			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue			
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	35,783.11	(783.11)
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	13,562.50	(3,562.50)
Investment Interest + Misc		-	-
Conference	\$ 60,000.00	106,668.62	(46,668.62)
Donations + Tax Return	\$ 5,000.00	60,722.06	(55,722.06)
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 200,000.00	54,511.00	145,489.00
	366,500.00	276,310.71	90,189.29
Expenses			
Service Fees	\$ 275.00	229.00	46.00
Board Meetings	\$ 48,000.00	44,030.60	3,969.40
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	15,803.18	3,196.82
Provincial Committee Meetings	\$ 19,000.00	44,911.75	(25,911.75)
Advertising - Clark Communication	\$ 4,571.00	1,193.28	3,377.72
Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	-	1,100.00
General & Admin	\$ 16,500.00	13,196.12	3,303.88
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 7,000.00	3,164.00	3,836.00
Staff Wages	\$ 34,000.00	45,543.32	(11,543.32)
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	38,872.05	(24,872.05)
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 35,000.00	35,933.55	(933.55)
Catch n Release	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
SNOED Program	-	10,295.00	
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	227,446.00	275,060.95	(37,319.95)
	139,054.00	1,249.76	127,509.24

8.4

FONOM Financial Summary April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026 as of March 4, 2026					
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Proposed 2026-2027</u>	
Revenue					
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	35,783.11	(783.11)	\$ 35,000.00	
AMO Reimbursements	\$ 6,500.00	5,063.42	1,436.58	\$ 6,500.00	Some have been processed by Kap
NOHFC	\$ 50,000.00	-	50,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	Increase in agreement
Northern Suite at AMO	\$ 10,000.00	13,562.50	(3,562.50)	\$ 14,000.00	Reflective of Partners contributions
Investment Interest + Misc		-	-		
Conference	\$ 60,000.00	106,668.62	(46,668.62)	\$ 75,000.00	Reflective of recent years
Donations + Tax Return	\$ 5,000.00	60,722.06	(55,722.06)	\$ 10,000.00	ROMA
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 200,000.00	54,511.00	145,489.00	\$ 54,000.00	90% of the Cost of expenses
Transfer from Reserves*				\$ 50,000.00	* One time Project - Queens park Days
	<u>366,500.00</u>	<u>276,310.71</u>	<u>90,189.29</u>	<u>\$ 319,500.00</u>	
Expenses					
Service Fees	\$ 275.00	229.00	46.00	\$ 260.00	Average of last few years
Board Meetings	\$ 48,000.00	44,030.60	3,969.40	\$ 40,000.00	No August Board meetings during AMO & AMO, instead do a July Zoom, January in the North
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	15,803.18	3,196.82	\$ 19,000.00	
Provincial Committee Meetings	\$ 19,000.00	49,855.50	(30,855.50)	\$ 65,500.00	Queens Park Days, funded by Reserves
Advertising - Clark Communications	\$ 4,571.00	1,193.28	3,377.72	\$ 1,500.00	reflective of work needed
Insurance	\$ 1,100.00	-	1,100.00	\$ 500.00	?
General & Admin	\$ 16,500.00	13,324.29	3,175.71	\$ 15,500.00	reducing
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 7,000.00	3,164.00	3,836.00	\$ 5,000.00	reducing to be reflective of costs
Staff Wages	\$ 34,000.00	45,543.32	(11,543.32)	\$ 75,000.00	new agreement
Staff Travel	\$ 5,000.00	2,467.85	2,532.15	\$ 4,000.00	reduced, not going to Thunder bay for AMO
Executive Honorarium	\$ 5,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Northern Hospitality Amo	\$ 14,000.00	17,432.62	(3,432.62)	\$ 14,000.00	attisipating to streamline the process
Conference Expense	\$ 14,000.00	38,872.05	(24,872.05)	\$ 14,000.00	will likely be more
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 35,000.00	35,933.55	(933.55)	\$ 60,000.00	seven videos are done, industry one starting
Catch n Release	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00		
SNOED Program	-	10,295.00		\$ -	
Other	-	-	-		
Other	-	-	-		
	<u>227,446.00</u>	<u>281,144.24</u>	<u>(43,403.24)</u>	<u>\$ 319,260.00</u>	
	<u>139,054.00</u>	<u>(4,833.53)</u>	<u>133,592.53</u>	<u>240.00</u>	