

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

MINUTES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Virtual

D. Plourde, President

D. Whalen, Past President

L. Watson, 2nd Vice President

A. MacNevin, Director

L. Feldman, Director

R. Carrier, Director

L. Carleton, Director

T. Kelly, Director

Regrets

M. Horsfield, 1st Vice President

P. Lefebvre, Director

S. Hollingsworth, Director

M. Signoretti, Alternate Director

Guests

Stacie Fiddler, Manager, The Labour Market Group

Paul Kugelmass, Manager, Education and Training, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Petra Wolfplass, Director, Membership Centre, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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.

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

2.0 ADDITIONS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. Whalen moved, **SECONDED** by **T. Kelly**, that the Agenda be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

3.0 Timed Delegations

Tom Meilleur of the Northern Ontario Aviation Committee addressed the FONOM Board regarding the urgent need to modernize Northern Ontario's airport infrastructure.

He noted that many northern airports are now 40 to 50 years old and were designed for aircraft that are nearing the end of their service life. Aging infrastructure and outdated aircraft are contributing to significant service disruptions, with an estimated 30 to 40 percent of flights delayed or cancelled, impacting passengers, cargo, healthcare access, and emergency services.

The Committee advised that while the Ministry of Transportation is moving toward a long-term runway modernization program, including 5,000-foot runways meeting updated standards, the process could take a decade or more. Interim measures are needed to improve reliability and support newer aircraft.

Recommendations included:

- A multi-year \$1.5 billion provincial-federal investment to modernize northern airports.
- Improved staffing, de-icing services, and weather reporting.
- Creation of a provincial working group involving Northern carriers and MTO officials.
- Collaboration with FONOM, NOMA, and municipalities on sustainable aviation funding and support for the Northern Ontario Airfare Affordability Program.

The presentation highlighted the critical role northern airports play in economic development, healthcare access, emergency response, and community connectivity across Northern Ontario.

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE Sunday, May 10th, 2026, BOARD MEETING

L. Carleton moved, **SECONDED** by **S. Hollingsworth**, that the Minutes be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1 M. Bain briefed the Board on the planning underway for FONOM's Queen's Park Days. To reduce costs and improve coordination, Board members were encouraged to carpool where possible, and a virtual meeting will be held in advance rather than renting meeting space in Toronto. Mac will arrange a dinner for the Board on the evening prior to meetings at Queen's Park. The plan is for the Board to arrive at Queen's Park by 9:00 a.m. to allow time for security screening and attendance during Question Period. Board members will then break into smaller groups to attend meetings with Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, and opposition parties. Discussion with provincial representatives will focus on resolutions and policy priorities brought forward through the FONOM AGM process. FONOM will also host a welcome reception at Queen's Park in the early evening. Board members will remain overnight in Toronto and return home on Tuesday.
- 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. Noting that we hope to discuss our meeting with Minister MacKinnon on June 2nd, 2026, with Minister Sarkaria.
- 5.3 M. Bain advised the Board that he had previously reached out to the President of the organization to request a discussion aimed at strengthening the relationship between the organizations. He noted that a direct outreach from the President had been suggested earlier; however, no such contact occurred at that time. Mac further advised that the NOSM President was scheduled to speak at the upcoming FONOM Conference and indicated that, should discussions not occur in advance, several questions had been identified that could be raised during the event. M. Bain subsequently updated the Board that he had spoken with Dr. Michael Green. During the discussion, Mac outlined municipalities' long-standing involvement and advocacy in support of NOSM and expressed the Board's disappointment at being excluded from representation on the NOSM Board. According to M. Bain, Dr. Green was not receptive to FONOM's concerns regarding Board representation and advised that members of the FONOM Board could apply through the provincial public appointments process should they wish to seek appointment to the NOSM Board.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

- 6.1 Resolution Received – Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario
Township of Nipissing
- 6.2 Resolution Received – Tar and Chip
Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands and 3 other municipalities
- 6.3 Resolution Received – Fire Truck Life Cycle
Municipality of Val Rita
- 6.4 Resolution Received – Huntsville Cancer Clinic
Municipality of Magnetawan

6.0 New Business Resolutions for Action – continued

- 6.4 Resolution Received – Huntsville Cancer Clinic
Municipality of Magnetawan
- 6.5 Resolution Received – 'Elbows Up for Climate Action.'
Municipality of Magnetawan
- 6.6 Resolution Received – Emergency Response Advocacy Retroactive Support
for Private Landowners
Municipality of Calvin
- 6.7 Letter Received - Termination of a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement
with the Ministry of Natural Resources
Township of The Archipelago
- 6.8 Resolution Received - Urging Ontario to Ace as Manitoba Advances Compassionate
Intervention Legislation
Township of Nairn and Hyman
- 6.9 Resolution Received - Additional enforcement and action at the end of ice fishing season
Township of Nipissing
- 6.10 Resolution Received - Exemptions to record requests of the Provincial Government
Town of Parry Sound and one other Municipality

7.0 Correspondence/Information Items

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

- 7.1 Resolution Received – OMERS Governance Changes and Bill 68
- 7.2 Resolution Received – Affordable Access to Broadband
- 7.3 Resolution Received – Driver's Licence Reinstatement Process
- 7.4 Resolution Received – Closure of LifeLabs
- 7.5 Resolution Received – Spraying of Glyphosates
- 7.6 Resolution Received – Interlibrary Book Rates with Canada Post
- 7.7 Resolution Received – Highway Safety on Highways 11 & 17
- 7.8 Resolution Received – The Birth of Change
- 7.9 Thank you Letter received – Affordable High-Speed Internet, Bell Fibre
- 7.10 Thank you Letter received – Call to Action for Justice & Protection of Canada's Children
- 7.11 Resolution Received - Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework
- 7.12 Thank you Letter received – Support Steel and Lumber Sectors
- 7.13 Resolution Received - Small Northern Residential property tax class
- 7.14 Letter Received - Building Homes and Improving Spring Housing Bill
- 7.15 Media Release - Equitable Access to Housing and Infrastructure Funding for
Northern Ontario Municipalities
- 7.16 Resolution Received - Make the NORDS program permanent
- 7.17 Letter Received – Ontario Proposes New Food Independence Legislation
- 7.18 Media Release - Voices Concern Over Nairn Centre Mill Curtailment
- 7.19 Resolution Received - Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)
- 7.20 Letter Received - Township of Whitewater Region

MOTION CARRIED.

8.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 8.1 **T. Kelly** moved, seconded by **L. Feldman**, that the Board receive the list of Expenditures with correction (*Attached Page 9*) for March 1, 2026 – May 6, 2026
MOTION CARRIED.
- 8.2 **L. Watson** moved, seconded by **S. Hollingsworth**, that the Board receive the Financial Report (*Attached Page 10*) ending May 6, 2026
MOTION CARRIED.
- 8.3 M. Bain shared the Board's year-end financials and discussed with them the major items that impacted the Budget. Mac addressed the Board's questions about year-end. (Attached Page 11)
- 8.4 M. Bain updated the Board that the 2026-2027 Memberships renewals. Mac noted that over 50% of Municipalities have renewed. Also, he mailed those municipalities that did not renew last year and has received a few positive responses.
- 8.5 M. Bain provided to the Board an update on the District videos, and that work has started on the Industry Videos
- 8.6 M. Bain discussed with the Board the process for the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.7 M. Bain walked the Board through the 2026 FONOM Conference program, addressing questions that were asked during the briefing.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS

District of Temiskaming

D. Whalen reported that the Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA) is scheduled to meet at the end of May and will be discussing several issues of regional importance. Danny also noted recent federal and provincial investments in new grain elevator infrastructure, a positive development that will strengthen the agricultural sector, improve storage capacity, and support economic growth across the Temiskaming region.

District of Parry Sound

L. Carleton reported that the Parry Sound Municipal Association will meet on May 29 with a full agenda of regional issues. She noted that water levels remain high across the district and that proposed developments often face NIMBY opposition. Lynda also advised that her municipality is installing a retaining wall but is dealing with regulatory issues. She was pleased to share that South River will now have an ambulance station, improving emergency service capacity in the area.

District of Sudbury

R. Carrier reported that a new ambulance station has opened in Markstay-Warren, enhancing emergency response capacity and services for residents. Renée also advised that the Municipality of St. Charles has expressed its desire to withdraw from the Regional Planning Board, an issue that will require further discussion among the affected municipalities and partners.

9.0 REGIONAL REPORTS – continued

City of North Bay

M. Horsfield shared that the City is continuing to closely monitor the threat of flooding. That the new community is still on time and on budget.

District of Manitoulin

A. MacNevin reported that the Manitoulin District Association's planned meeting was cancelled due to a storm.

District of Algoma

L. Watson reported that the City of Sault Ste. Marie is now in conversation with the Algoma District Municipal Association (ADMA) regarding Economic Development and Tourism.

District of Cochrane

D. Plourde reported that the Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA) has elected Roger Seguin as its new President. He noted that forestry operations in Kapuskasing and across the region are performing well, with mills operating steadily and paper prices showing improvement. Dave also advised that OPP calls for service related to evacuees accommodated in the community by a third-party provider have exceeded \$700,000 since January, resulting in significant local policing costs.

City of Sault Ste Marie

S. Hollingworth reported that Sault College's Aviation program has received additional funding, strengthening one of Ontario's leading flight training programs and supporting Northern Ontario's aviation workforce needs. Sandra also noted that Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Matthew Shoemaker is visiting the Port of Hamilton to learn more about port operations and economic development opportunities as the City explores the potential for expanded marine transportation and port-related development in Sault Ste. Marie. Noting also that the Sault has started a 'Dirty Yard Blitz' with the hope of beautifying the community. Lastly, she noted that Hope Air is celebrating its 40th year.

District of Nipissing

T. Kelly shared that East Ferris will be building a new Fire Hall, which includes a training centre. The centre will be available to other communities, helping with travel costs.

City of Timmins

L. Feldman expressed his pleasure that the City of Timmins is hosting the 2026 FONOM Conference and commended City staff for their efforts in preparing for the event. He reported that the City's budget has been approved and residents are now reviewing its impacts and priorities. While concerns remain about potential flooding, the recent cooler weather has helped moderate conditions. Lorne also noted that construction of Golden Manor remains on budget and on schedule, with the facility expected to open this fall. The City continues to explore opportunities to encourage new development; however, high construction costs and local opposition to some projects remain ongoing challenges.

City of Greater Sudbury – No Report provided

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

11:0 IN CAMERA - none

12.0 NEXT MEETING Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, held Virtually.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT – **A. MacNevin** moved, seconded by **R. Carriere**, that the Board meeting be adjourned at 5:32 pm.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF May 10th, 2026

A. MacNevin moved, seconded by **R. Carrier**, that the Minutes be accepted as presented on July 23rd, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED.



President Dave Plourde

President's Report

**Dave Plourde – FONOM Board Meeting
May 10, 2026**

Since our March Board Meeting, FONOM has continued to maintain a strong advocacy presence on behalf of Northeastern Ontario municipalities, while preparing for our Annual Conference here in Timmins.

A significant amount of attention has continued to focus on transportation infrastructure and highway safety. FONOM has continued discussions with provincial and federal representatives regarding Highways 11 and 17, including the importance of coordinated investment, improved safety measures, and recognition of the corridor as a nation-building priority. We have continued to reinforce the importance of Northern transportation infrastructure to economic development, supply chains, mining, forestry, tourism, and community connectivity.

FONOM strengthened its advocacy efforts through continued collaboration with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA). This included participation at the NOMA Conference, where discussions again highlighted the shared priorities facing municipalities across Northern Ontario. The conference also provided an opportunity to reinforce the importance of a united Northern voice on key files, including transportation, healthcare, policing costs, housing, and economic development.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) Conference. The discussions reinforced the importance of the forestry sector to Northern Ontario communities, local economies, and employment. The conference also highlighted ongoing concerns regarding tariffs, energy, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and maintaining a competitive environment for the forestry sector in Ontario.

In recent weeks, FONOM also partnered with NOMA and the Ontario Trucking Association (OTA) on a joint advocacy initiative regarding Highways 11 and 17. This partnership further underscores the message that these transportation corridors are critical not only to Northern Ontario but also to the Province's and the Country's economic and supply chain interests.

Preparations for the 2026 FONOM Conference have occupied considerable time over the past several weeks. I would like to thank the City of Timmins, Councillor Lorne Feldman, the local organizing committee, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and the many volunteers who have worked hard to make this conference possible. The response from delegates, exhibitors, and sponsors has been extremely positive, and we look forward to several productive days of discussion and networking.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of the FONOM Board and staff for their continued advocacy and support over the past several months. Our organization continues to be respected as a strong and constructive voice for Northeastern Ontario municipalities.

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, 2026 - March 31, 2027			
as of May 6, 2026			
	Budget	YTD	Variance
Revenue			
Membership	\$ 35,000.00	19,498.34	15,501.66
AMO Reimbursements	\$ 6,500.00	-	6,500.00
NOHFC	\$ 75,000.00	-	75,000.00
Northern Suite at AMO	\$ 14,000.00	-	14,000.00
Investment Interest + Misc	\$ -	-	-
Conference	\$ 75,000.00	16,329.20	58,670.80
Donations + Tax Return	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00	-
FedNor - GONorth & SNOED	\$ 54,000.00	-	54,000.00
Transfer from Reserves*	\$ 50,000.00		50,000.00
	319,500.00	45,827.54	273,672.46
Expenses			
Service Fees	\$ 260.00	16.75	243.25
Board Meetings	\$ 40,000.00	-	40,000.00
Amo Board Meeting & Mou	\$ 19,000.00	1,606.71	17,393.29
Provincial Committee Meetings	\$ 65,500.00	2,144.74	63,355.26
Advertising - Clark Communications	\$ 1,500.00	-	1,500.00
Insurance	\$ 500.00	-	500.00
General & Admin	\$ 15,500.00	735.44	14,764.56
Audit And Legal Fees	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Staff Wages	\$ 75,000.00	5,416.66	69,583.34
Staff Travel	\$ 4,000.00	-	4,000.00
Executive Honorarium	\$ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Northern Hospitality Amo	\$ 14,000.00	-	14,000.00
Conference Expense	\$ 14,000.00	26,496.93	(12,496.93)
GoNorth Campaign	\$ 60,000.00	33,900.00	26,100.00
Catch n Release	\$ -	-	-
SNOED Program	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
	319,260.00	70,317.23	248,942.77
	240.00	(24,489.69)	24,729.69