

Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference



Collaboration & Partnerships: Steps for the Future

*“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.” - Henry Ford*

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September 21, 22 & 23, 2011 • Valhalla Inn



Welcome to the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference!

What an outstanding opportunity for learning and sharing through our partnership between the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce, the Northwestern Ontario Development Network and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The theme for our conference this year is “Collaboration & Partnerships: Steps for the Future”. What a fitting theme! It is our hope that this conference will provide an opportunity for all participants to strengthen relationships, broaden networking and information sharing, and reveal new synergies between our municipal, business and economic development leaders.

We extend our appreciation to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and their staff for their assistance in coordinating so many interesting and informative topics for our learning sessions on Thursday and to Charla Robinson, NOMA Executive Director, for her conference management skills in ensuring everything goes off without a hitch.

We look forward to a great time of learning and sharing together.



Ron Nelson
NOMA President



Andy Scribilo
NOACC President



Ryan Reynard
NODN President

Keynote Speaker: Brian Lambie, Redbrick Communications



Brian Lambie has extensive communications experience gained during his career as a private sector consultant, a political assistant and a public servant.

He founded Redbrick Communications in 2002 with a mission to empower people and organizations to tell their own story, no matter how great the challenge. For the past seven years Brian has served as the media contact for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and he is a sought after media trainer and conference speaker.

Formerly Vice President of Howe & Company Corporate Communications and an Account Group Director with GPC International in Toronto, his specialties include corporate and public sector communications, issue and crisis management, and stakeholder and media relations.

Brian earned his M.A. in Journalism at the University of Western Ontario.

Conference Organizing Committee

Audrey Anderson, MMAH
Danica Edmonds, MMAH
Dan Brenzavich, NODN

Jessica Auger-Beaulieu, MMAH
Charla Robinson, NOMA
Harold Wilson, NOACC

Alejandro Cifuentes, MMAH
Cherie Russell, MMAH

Time	Event <i>All meetings in Ballroom unless otherwise noted</i>	Moderator
Wednesday, September 21st		
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Registration & After Business networking (cash bar)	
Thursday, September 22nd Programming host: Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing		
8:00 am	Light Breakfast	
8:45 am	Welcome: Mayor Ron Nelson, <i>NOMA President</i> Andy Scribilo, <i>NOACC President</i> Ryan Reynard, <i>NODN President</i> Mayor Keith Hobbs, <i>City of Thunder Bay</i>	Mayor Ron Nelson
9:15 am	Opening Address: Great Communications Tips Brian Lambie, <i>Redbrick Communications</i> <i>This practical and humorous session will help prepare you for communications challenges, whether they are media inquiries, sensitive Human Resource matters, briefing notes, or public meetings. It will also help you to make better judgments about how to promote good news stories, how to deliver bad news when needed, and how to manage issues better.</i>	Mayor Keith Hobbs
10:05 am	Refreshment Break	
10:25 am	<p>Concurrent A: Building Futures Together: Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Rob Cressman, <i>Director of Housing Programs, MMAH</i></p> <p><i>The Provincial Government has released its Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy with a vision to improve access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing and provide a solid foundation on which to secure employment, raise families, and build strong communities. On May 4th, 2011, the Housing Services Act, 2011, which implements aspects of the Strategy, received Royal Assent. This session will help you to better understand a new partnership between the province and municipalities, changing roles and responsibilities in a new housing system, and learn about the future of the housing programs.</i></p> <p>Concurrent B: How to link Service Delivery Reviews with financial Scandia #3 sustainability in municipalities Oscar Poloni, <i>Partner, KPMG LLP</i></p> <p><i>Over the last year, a number of communities have either undertaken or have started the process to reviews and there are lessons that can be applied to communities across the North. KPMG will introduce you to our experiences with Northern communities that have turned the focus inwards to review their operations and, equally important, how they fund them. We will share with participants our approach and some of the key issues we identified during our review, particularly given our extension of the review beyond the type and cost of services to include taxation policy and infrastructure financing. This session will be of benefit to both elected officials and municipal staff, despite the fact that their roles and expectations of reviews will sometimes differ.</i></p> <p>Concurrent C: Business Meeting for NOACC delegates Viking Room</p> <p>Concurrent D: Business Meeting for NODN delegates Scandia #1</p>	<p>Mayor Rick Dumas</p> <p>Mayor Dennis Brown</p>

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Thursday, September 22nd Programming host: Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing		
11:10 am	Municipal Strategic Planning Carmelo Notarbartolo, CAO, <i>Township of Terrace Bay</i>	Councillor Gord Armstrong
12:00 pm	Buffet Lunch	Councillor Larry Hebert
12:40 pm	Presentation: The vision of the College and its role in our communities Jim Madder, <i>President, Confederation College</i>	
1:20 pm	Aboriginal Governance 101 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Gary Lipinski, <i>Métis Nation of Ontario</i> • Chief Peter Collins, <i>Robinson-Superior Treaty</i> • Grand Chief Diane Kelly, <i>Grand Council Treaty #3</i> • Bentley Cheechoo, <i>Nishnawbe Aski Nation</i> <p><i>Aboriginal Leaders from across the region will provide an overview of the Governance structures for their treaty/tribal organization. The question and answer session will help inform delegates about the decision processes involved within our Aboriginal communities.</i></p>	Mayor David Canfield
2:25 pm	Ring of Fire Update Harvey Yesno, <i>Director of Aboriginal Community & Stakeholder Relations, Ring of Fire Secretariat</i> <i>The “Ring of Fire” initiative refers to one of the most promising development opportunities in northern Ontario in perhaps a century. Current estimates from companies exploring in the area suggest the potential for decades of chromite production, as well as significant production of nickel, copper and platinum.</i> <i>Although still in the exploration stage, mineral production potential could be on the scale of historic world class mining areas such as Sudbury, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Red Lake, all of which have seen mineral development spanning a century of production. An initiative of this scale and scope, provides a historic opportunity to think strategically & plan for economic development in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner, including but not limited to: strategic infrastructure planning, value-added processing, First Nations engagement and economic development opportunities, community capacity and social supports, and training and employment. The Ring of Fire initiative forms a key pillar of Ontario’s Open Ontario plan and will also build on the current provincial policy framework including: Northern Growth Plan, Far North Land Use Planning, Green Energy Act, and Mining Act Modernization.</i>	Mayor Phil Vinet
3:20 pm	Refreshment Break	
3:40 pm	Northern Ontario Growth Plan - Regional Economic Development Planning Areas Initiative Eric Rutherford, <i>Co Chair, Northern Advisory Council</i> Iain Angus, <i>Chair, N.W.O. Joint Task Force</i>	Councillor Andrew Hallikas
4:40pm	Conference Evaluation Process Jessica Auger-Beaulieu, MMAH	
5:00 pm	Closing comments Elizabeth Harding, <i>Assistant Deputy Minister, MMAH</i> Draw for Valhalla Inn weekend package	
5:15 pm – 7:30 pm	Italian Buffet Dinner (cash bar) <i>Dinner ticket required</i> Scandia Room	

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Friday, September 23rd Programming host: Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association		
8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast	
8:55 am	Welcoming Remarks: Ron Nelson, <i>NOMA President</i> Opening Prayer: Charlie Wilson, <i>Nation at Prayer</i> Video Presentation - Economic Development Successes: Ryan Reynard, <i>NODN President</i>	
9:10 am	Presentation: “The Strategic Plan for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre” Andrée Robichaud, <i>President, TBRHSC</i>	Councillor Gary Judson
9:50 am	Refreshment break	
10:10 am	Regional Tourism Organization Update Lisa Beckwick, <i>Tourism Manager, City of Thunder Bay</i>	Councillor Jody Davis
10:50 am	Provincial Leaders Debate Andrea Horwath, <i>Leader, Ontario New Democratic Party</i> Tim Hudak, <i>Leader, Ontario Progressive Conservative Party</i>	Gerald Graham
12:00 noon	Buffet Lunch	
1:00 pm	Adjournment	

