



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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November 30, 2023

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for November 22, 2023

Presentation re Opportunities for Nurse Practitioners (NP): Pam Delgaty and Rebecca Krawczuk provided presentation on opportunities for nurse practitioners in Northwestern Ontario. They suggested that NOMA could advocate for more funded NP positions, consider sponsoring local RN to upgrade their certificates, and having a local health team will help attract and retain family physicians. We will be experiencing a public health crisis as physicians with large family practices leave and new physicians come in that are more concerned with quality of life. NOMA will advocate to government for more funding and opportunities for NP to take pressure off doctors and adding more NP funding positions to accompany the increase in educational seats for NP.

AMO – Social & Economic Prosperity Review: Bridget Cherry and Karen Nesbitt provided presentation regarding AMO's upcoming social & economic prosperity review. Municipalities are facing complex fiscal challenges such as homelessness, climate change, and aging infrastructure without the financial tools to address them. AMO will review the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship to realign responsibilities based on evolving policy and service realities and ensure that municipalities have appropriate revenue streams to support growing needs. ED will distribute communications as they become available.

Health Unit Voluntary Amalgamation: Wendy Landry met with Ministry and emphasized that one size won't fit all and the need to find solutions for the North. NOMA will investigate further as we are unable to commit to a position at this time. NOMA will ensure representation at the public health unit boards in region to ensure we have consistent messaging. Eric Pietsch will attend a future Thunder Bay District Health Meeting. It was proposed that an amalgamation could be beneficial in the event the province 100% funds public health and municipalities are no longer involved.

Hope Air: Request for letter of support denied. Municipalities asked to support individually.

2024 NOMA Conference: April 24-26, 2024, at the Victoria Inn Thunder Bay. Theme: Building a Brighter Future. Conference registration will open on December 4th on Eventbrite. The hotel room blocks will also be made available. An email with conference details will be sent on Monday with necessary links. All information will also be available on the NOMA website.

Victoria Inn is confirmed as the venue for the 2025 NOMA AGM April 23-25.

2024 ROMA Delegation: NOMA will be submitting for a multi-minister delegation for the following topics: 1. Northern highway safety including data from OTA survey, a video highlight dangerous driving conditions, year-round rest stops, and safety arms at construction sites 2. NPI review of BC rural health care model to determine best practices that could be applied to Northwestern Ontario & agency nursing costs 3. NOMA will advocate to government for more funding and opportunities for NP to take pressure off doctors and adding more NP funding positions.

Will include section labelled “Outstanding Items”: OMPF, Railway costs and taxation, Sales Tax, Crown Land, allow for virtual/hybrid delegations at ROMA and AMO conferences.

NOMA will also participate in joint meeting with FONOM and NOSDA to discuss the 3rd NPI that will be provided to government at ROMA. It focuses on 3 of the 8 strategies proposed in the 1st paper.

(Please note post-meeting NOMA was informed Ministers will not be accepting multi-minister meetings at ROMA this year and as such we will participate in individual Ministry meetings)

Economic Development Plan: NOMA is moving forward with developing a regional Economic Development Plan. A working group (WG) has been established and will have our first meeting on December 1st. The WG is made up of representatives from various sectors across all districts including NOMA executive, EDO's, indigenous, forestry, tourism, energy, CEDC, multiculturalism association, and NPI. We anticipate having 3 meetings in total to produce a draft plan. We anticipate the draft plan to be presented to NOMA membership at the NOMA Conference AGM on April 25th. Municipalities will have an opportunity to provide input. We expect to present the final plan to government at AMO 2024.

Asset Management Data: Katia Borjas updated 2022 FIR data and gathered all data currently available for municipal asset management plans across the region. The data gathered only represents 25 municipalities as some communities did not have a completed plan or the data available was incomplete. Overall, the data showed that municipalities across the region are experiencing a significant infrastructure deficit. The total deficit as of 2022 was \$89,862,661 for the 25 NWO Municipalities. The data span includes the years from 2016 to 2022. This is only an approximation and does not account for inflationary costs. For example, the City of Thunder Bay in 2021 was experiencing a deficit of approximately \$13m. This approximation has increased to \$35m in just two 2 years. As there is no consistent standard across all municipalities, we avoided comparing the data and focused on the deficit as a whole. We will update data as it becomes available. NOMA recommends municipalities create plans to tackle Infrastructure deficit and upgrade aging infrastructure, share best practices or knowledge regarding asset management, and petition for a standardized Asset Management Plan Template for Ontario municipalities.

2024 Meeting Dates:

February 28, April 23, June 5, August 18 (Ottawa), September 25, & November 27
Meeting times for 2024 will be 9am to 12:30pm (EST)

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – AGM is in Nipigon Feb 29-Mar 1.

KDMA – Next board meeting will be December in Machin. AGM is Feb 8-10 in Kenora.

RRDMA – Next board meeting will be December 7th. AGM is Jan 14th in EMO. They also have a meeting upcoming with Riverside Hospital to establish a relationship and determine issues.

Strategic Plan Report:

- Economic Development Working Group list of members finalized, and the first meeting is confirmed for December 1 from 1-4pm.
- 2022 FIR data complete
- Asset Management data compiled. However, 5 plans were not available, 5 were incomplete, and 2 were excluded. At this time the data can only be used to outline that Northwestern Ontario is experiencing a significant infrastructure deficit.
- List compiled of modernization projects. To be posted on website once finalized.

Executive Director Report:

- Sent 4 letters of support (NPI Request for NOHFC Support to “Grow the North”, Guy Bourgouin private member's bill re highway safety - passing on double yellow, RHIS Expanding to the Northern Municipalities, NOSM for increase in base funding)
- NOSM's admissions team is expected to present at our next board meeting.
- **December 6th learning morning postponed to 2024.**
- Ministry of Infrastructure PA discussion re asset management planning, OCIF, Green Infrastructure and flood prevention, and data accessibility
- Black Ash Recovery Strategy submission made to government.

Notable Meetings Attended:

- LAS Energy Symposium
- NOSM meeting re recruitment.
- NOSDA, FONOM, and NPI to discuss ROMA Delegation
- Economic Fiscal Outlook Briefing
- Association's Executive Director quarterly meeting re AGM's, priorities, resolutions, Economic Development Working Group

Issue Tracker Updates:

NWMO: Ignace is to hold a nuclear symposium in March 2024.

The next NOMA Board meeting takes place February 28, 2024, in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any NOMA matters.

Sincerely,



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