



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
P.O. Box 10308, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8  
[www.noma.on.ca](http://www.noma.on.ca)  
p. 807.683.6662 e. [admin@noma.on.ca](mailto:admin@noma.on.ca)

October 11, 2021

## **NOMA Board Meeting Report for October 7, 2021**

Attention: Mayor and Council

In an effort to increase communication between NOMA and our membership you will receive a report following each NOMA Board meeting to summarize the business discussed (approx. 6 times a year). Please review the NOMA Board Meeting Report that should be found in the report section of your Council agenda package. When the minutes have been adopted at our next Board meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, they will be uploaded to the NOMA website at [www.noma.on.ca](http://www.noma.on.ca). For those who may be new to Council and are unfamiliar with NOMA, please review the brief summary below to explain what our organization does for your municipality.

### **Who is NOMA?**

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) is a not-for-profit organization made up of the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA), the Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA), the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML), and the City of Thunder Bay. Other than the City of Thunder Bay, membership is attained by being a member of the district organization. There are 37 municipalities that currently belong to our association.

NOMA is the essential, unified voice, heard by all orders of government to ensure when the province is looking at making changes that would affect Northwestern Ontario Municipalities, that we advocate for the municipal interests of our members to be considered and the rights of the municipalities to be protected through education and discussions.

The Association holds an Annual General Meeting during the last week in April to bring together experts from across the sector to discuss the latest municipal best practices, emerging trends, and key legislative and management issues. In addition to this, the Board of Directors holds several meetings throughout the year that are open to the general membership. NOMA also has representation on various other bodies/organizations including working groups to reflect the needs of Northwestern Ontario and discuss matters of municipal interest with provincial parties.

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) forms the Northern Caucus of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). NOMA works closely with these and other organizations such as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) to collaborate our advocacy efforts.

### **October 7<sup>th</sup> NOMA Board Meeting Summary:**

The NOMA Board received an update from MPAC. Wendy Landry welcomed new Board members Mark Figliomeni (Red Rock) and Jim Vezina (O'Connor).

The Board discussed the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission and a few concerns regarding bus scheduling and service gaps which will be shared with MTO. NOMA will also be requesting a seat on the ONTC Board and will schedule a meeting with MTO to receive an update.

The Board determined we will not engage in the issue regarding Ontario Optometrists advocacy for adequate eye exam compensation.

NOMA discussed the bear issue experienced by Northwestern Ontario. There have been numerous encounters with bears in the region and there is not an adequate number of bear technicians to effectively manage the issue and relocate the bears. In a number of cases OPP have responded to bear calls and euthanize the bears. This is a great safety concern for our residents. The Executive Director will send a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources to outline the bear issue experienced in the region, to obtain an update on the Spring Bear Hunt and if it will be expanded, follow up on bear-wise, and our ability to put bear traps back in communities. We suggest more community education is necessary to encourage residents to stop feeding bears and close garage doors.

NOMA discussed and will be implementing a new onboarding strategy for new members to the Board. Policy amendments will be brought forward for review at our next Board meeting.

**NOMA discussed our 2022 Conference & AGM. It was determined the conference will be hosted in person at the Fort Frances Curling Club on April 27<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

It Takes a Forest approached NOMA to discuss our participation in their Billboard Campaign. The Executive Director will organize a meeting to move forward with this initiative.

NOMA participated in AMO Delegation with Conservative, Liberal, and NPD and we participated in joint meeting with FONOM and NOSDA on Mental Health, Addictions, and Homelessness.

The Executive Director attended the following meetings and webinars: DoKura AGM, Power of Nature and Fighting Climate Change, What's Next? A Guide to Emerging from Chaos and Navigating the Future of Work, NWO Regional Electricity Planning, Ontario Engagement Workshop: Monitoring the Impact of Major Projects, OEB Policy Day: Charting the Path to Top Quartile Regulator, and Risk Management: (em)Powering Change, Climate resiliency for a better tomorrow' Symposium.

#### Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML: Had a presentation from MTO. They expressed to MTO they want to be part of the planning process and provide input in advancements to highways. Their AGM will occur in March in Thunder Bay.

KDMA: Their AGM will be in January in Dryden. A new NOMA representative will be discussed at AGM.

RRDMA: Had a presentation on drought in the area. Their Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan was completed by DSSAB for 10 municipalities in region and approved. Discussed by-law officer for smaller municipalities. Their AGM will occur on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

There are 2 vacancies on the NOMA Board. One for the City of Thunder Bay and one for KDMA.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Strawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a stylized 'S'.

Andrea Strawson  
Executive Director of NOMA  
(807) 683-6662  
admin@noma.on.ca