



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay  
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July 5, 2022

Attention: Mayor and Council

### **NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for June 28, 2022**

Strategic Plan: NOMA has submitted application to NOHFC to obtain funding for a Project Officer to assist with completing some of the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan

#### **Gas Tax Resolution**

Erwin Butikofer reported on the Gas Tax Resolution and how it affects seasonal residents that are not included in the census. The Municipality of Neebing has lost roughly \$625000 since its inception by seasonal residents not being included in census which is used to secure funding. He recommends a review of the program and its faults. It was clarified that the gas tax is not based on number of households but rather individuals residing at their primary residence. Infrastructure is being impacted by seasonal residents, but they are not getting accounted for in the gas tax formula. Municipalities still pay levies on seasonal houses, but they do not get to count it in gas tax. A discussion occurred about approach including looking at the formula to look at cost of household vs population or to increase the gas tax to account for seasonal residents. Wendy Landry will bring this issue to discussion at next AMO Board Meeting.

#### **FONOM, NOSDA, and NOMA Joint Research Paper with NPI**

Over the next 3 years, NPI will work with our organizations to research how to implement the 8 strategies that were outlined in the paper "Solving the Homelessness, Addictions, Mental Health Crisis in the North". We will ensure balance between NOMA and FONOM regions as our issues differ, especially with respect to indigenous population not receiving support needed (avoid a pan-northern approach) and we will include our indigenous neighbours in discussions to capture their perspective in the research. The next paper will focus on the following 3 strategies with the goal being to create a how to guide for our organizations and the municipalities we represent to implement each goal: Amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990 to define a Northern Service Hub and provide additional funding to make it available in communities; Support new and existing culturally sensitive community housing facilities for Indigenous peoples; and Establish a Northern Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence to address the unique challenges of service and program delivery in Northern Ontario.

#### **AMO Delegations**

It was determined that the issues we will bring forward for AMO delegations include: OMPF, Railway Crossings, Public Health and EMS, and Sale of Crown Land. NOMA will not be moving forward with WSER issue.

#### **Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force Update**

Their next step is to secure someone to write quarterly and final report. NAN and Deputy Grand Chief are now involved. The next Meeting is on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NPI Request for NOMA Support**

NOMA will make a one-time donation to NPI of \$1,500 to cover \$500 per year over the next 3 years to aid the sustainability of the organization as their funding model was significantly reduced.

**Municipal Association/League Updates:**

KDMA – The District Service Board is conducting a housing survey with municipalities to decide what the housing needs are. Crown land is still an issue. RN's are now looking for more incentive to remain in community and we need ability to attract and retain.

**Executive Director Report:**

NOMA hosted our first Learning Morning on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The presentations are available to view on NOMA's YouTube channel. If you have any ideas for next Learning Morning, please contact Andrea Strawson.

**Issue Tracker Updates:**

Issue tracker items were reviewed for relevancy to decide if they will remain on list.

WSER Regulation Dechlorinating Wastewater has been removed from the list and Policing Costs will be taken over by KDMA.

ED will write KDMA a letter to support this issue and a NOMA member will participate in their AMO delegation to show support.

**Mining** – The Mayor of Timmins is the new Mining Minister. There is still the issue of acquisition of mining claims and tailing ponds. PDAC Mining Conference will take place June 13-15. There may be value in NOMA municipalities securing a table at the conference to share issues. It would be in addition to Red Lake's booth and ED will look into getting a booth for 2023.

**NOSM: Physician Recruitment** – Wendy Landry and Andrea Strawson are sitting on committees to select a chancellor and board of directors. Fred Mota expressed that the Red Lake ER has and will continue to need to close. NOSM is not sending residents to Red Lake and there are different pay grades based on their contract. Smaller communities with hospitals can't pay the incentives that larger communities can and without doctors' young families will not move here. Therefore, we need a fair playing field for all hospitals in the North and we need to push NOSM to get physicians in the North. Once the Board of Directors and Chancellor have been selected, ED will secure a meeting with NOSM. Ability to bill OHIP is an issue.

**Energy** - The IESO has a form online for comments on their energy plan.

The next NOMA Board meeting will take place on **Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, in **Ottawa**.

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

Sincerely,



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