



Spring Newsletter 2015

FONOM/MMAH Northeastern Municipal Conference – The conference sold out with 300 registrations to attend the 55th Annual Conference in the City of Greater Sudbury, May 6, 7 & 8, 2015. On behalf of the FONOM Board of Directors, thank you for making this year's conference a success! A number of informative and engaging workshops that catered to the large number of newly elected officials were scheduled during the three day conference. FONOM was pleased to have representation from the Province with 8 Cabinet Ministers, 2 Parliamentary Assistants and Premier Kathleen Wynne all attending. We look forward to next year's conference in the City of Timmins, May 11, 12 & 13, 2016.

FONOM Annual General Meeting – The annual meeting consisted of an update to delegates on the activities that FONOM has been involved in over the last year as well as an update on the status of a number of issues. Delegates also approved the minutes from the 2014 annual meeting and approved the financial report for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. A focus of the meeting was the resolutions which were all passed.

Membership Renewals – The work that FONOM has been able to accomplish has been because of the support from our members and we look forward to another year working on issues that are important to the North! There are unpaid memberships remaining for the 2015-2016 year. For those that have outstanding membership fees, please send payment so that your municipality will continue to receive our communications. If you require a copy of your invoice, please contact the FONOM office and another copy can be sent.

Highlights:

Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) Program – After advocacy efforts were undertaken from FONOM and industry, we were pleased by the announcement that the NIER Program will become permanent. This program supports major industries in Northern Ontario by providing rebates on electricity program.

Connecting Links Program – FONOM has been requesting the return of the Connecting Links program since its cancellation in 2013. This program provides municipalities with much needed assistance with road construction and improvements on provincial highways that run through their communities. We look forward to further communication regarding the implementation of the program as well as additional transportation infrastructure funding as part of the Province's investments outside of the GTHA.



Events:

State of the North Summit – The April 2nd event which was hosted by The Empire Club in Toronto; one of the most prominent speaker platforms in the country. The summit catered to the Queen's Park and financial and investment community and brought together industry, municipal and First Nations Leaders to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the North. It was a great opportunity showcase Northern Ontario and FONOM looks forward to participating in a future event.

Ongoing Advocacy Initiatives:

Bill 52 (Anti-SLAPP) – FONOM, in partnership with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) continue to request that the Attorney General revise the legislation and implement the recommendations that have been put forward. The two recommendations, if implemented, would address the concerns of Northern Ontario while balancing the need to protect discussions of public interest important to individuals or community based organizations.

Policing Modernization – The affordability of policing in communities remains an ongoing issue across municipalities in the North, whether policed by OPP or through municipal police forces. FONOM President, Al Spacek, recently chaired AMO's Policing Modernization Task Force, which consisted of Mayors and Police Board representatives from across the Province that developed a report with several recommendations. Moving forward, there will be continued discussion and a request that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services implement the recommendations.

Relationship Building Initiatives:

Organizations – FONOM has recently developed a formal working relationship with NOMA and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) in an effort to increase communication and effectiveness when advocating to the Province on common issues.

First Nations – FONOM is continuing to build on our relationship with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and will be developing a framework for collaboration which will include leaders from FONOM, NOMA, NAN and the Chiefs of Ontario.

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