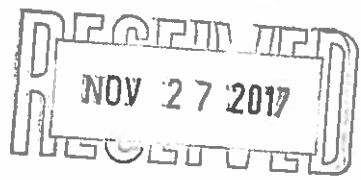


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Fall Newsletter 2017

FONOM Office contact:

Katelyn Guertin, Projects and Operations Coordinator
705-567-9361 ext. 258
3 Kirkland Street W
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3P4

File Incoming Other _____
 Mayor
 Council
 CAO
 Building
 Finance S C
 Ec Dev S C
 Parks & Rec S C
 Planning S C
 Public Wks S C
 PPP
 Social Services

Meeting of the Board of Directors' held September 28, 2017 – The FONOM Board of Directors' held their September Board meeting in Timmins to correspond with the Northern Ontario Business Awards. It was a great opportunity to show FONOM's support of the business leaders in our communities. The Board discussed a number of issues including supporting a request to the government to reconsider its approach to tax registration procedures for out of court payments. FONOM received a significant number of resolutions and has since sent a letter to the Minister requesting action. The Board also discussed energy related concerns, broadband services, a pilot project for Indigenous Inter-Professional Primary Care Teams, to name a few.

2018 ROMA Conference – The FONOM Board will be attending the upcoming ROMA conference and has submitted its request to meet with the Premier and members of Cabinet. While FONOM ensures flexibility to include additional matters of concern as they arise, some of the issues of potential discussion include: railway rights-of-way property taxation, fire-medical proposal, public health units, electricity prices, and others. With provincial election year fast approaching, FONOM is looking forward to pressing the government on matters that demand attention and action.

2018-2019 FONOM Membership Fees – Membership invoices have been prepared and will be sent out in the next few weeks to ensure significant time is in place to meet the March 31, 2018 deadline.

2018 FONOM/MMA Northeastern Municipal Conference – Planning is underway for the upcoming annual conference taking place May 9, 10 and 11 in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the host community of Parry Sound. Stay tuned for more information!

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Update on policy matters:

Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

FONOM provided a written submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs requesting exemptions be made for municipal employers from the legislation. They included an exemption for municipal employees that are required to be on call to provide public safety and public health services and an exemption for volunteer firefighters for equal pay for equal work provisions of full-time firefighters. FONOM is pleased that the government has recognized the significant implications of these provisions and committed to exempting municipal employers from on-call provisions to ensure the delivery of essential services as well as exempting firefighters from the equal pay for equal work provisions.

Bill 160, Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017

FONOM provided a written submission to the Standing Committee on General Government focusing on the fire-medical proposal that would see expanded medical services performed by fire fighters who are certified paramedics. FONOM requested that an amendment to the legislation be included that would prevent arbitrators from replicating the pilot projects onto unwilling municipalities, given the current interest arbitration system.

Ontario's Cannabis Act

FONOM attended the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' Cannabis Legalization: Enforcement Summit. The summit, which was attended by municipalities, Indigenous leaders, law enforcement representatives, public health and representatives from a number of government Ministries, consisted of roundtable discussions which raised several themes including education and training, better clarification about roles and responsibilities and communication, amongst law enforcement, communities, public health and the public. FONOM continues to advocate the need for resources to municipalities, community supports and law enforcement, local say in determining where storefronts will be located and the need for a long-term strategy to work with municipalities on economic development opportunities.

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Forestry/Species at Risk

FONOM continues to advocate on behalf of the forestry sector. President, Al Spacek attending Queen's Park on November 22, 2017 along with community leaders, Indigenous leaders, unions, chambers of commerce and forestry professionals to urge the provincial government to avoid unintended consequences by rushing Species at Risk policy.

The Weather Network's application to CRTC

FONOM submitted a letter of support to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to renew The Weather Network's broadcasting license to ensure that weather information will remain on basic television where it is available to all subscribers rather than moved to more expensive television packages. Access to weather information is important in understanding local weather forecasts and road conditions to help make safe travel and planning decisions.

AMO Task Forces

Members of the FONOM Board are represented on a number of AMO Task Forces, providing key northern perspectives on a number of issues. The Task Forces included are:

Health Task Force
Waste Management Task Force
Marijuana Legalization Task Force
Indigenous Relations Task Force
Changing Workplaces Task Force
Energy Task Force

Next FONOM Board Meeting:

The November Board of Directors meeting was postponed and will now take place on December 12, 2017.