



February 20, 2024

The Northern Ontario Women's (NOW) Caucus began as a conversation over a year ago between two mayors, both women and both elected to serve their community. Mayor Michelle Boileau of Timmins and Mayor Cheryl Fort of Hornepayne recognized that the support they were looking for as municipal leaders, was a shared experience for women in office.

NOW has since grown to over 21 regular participants, all mayors of Northern Ontario communities. Formal membership is being offered to elected officials in Northern Ontario, who identify as women, and who want to lead the conversation on priorities and issues that are directly affecting women in the northern region.

The group of mayors recently met at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto to establish the caucus' terms of reference, mission and vision. The mission – to create an alliance of women municipal representatives across Northern Ontario, [and] to create and preserve space for women in municipal politics, as every voice matters.

NOW's goal is to not only amplify the voice of women in Northern Ontario, but to speak as one voice that is focused on building positive relationships for the communities it represents. The group is looking to work together with provincial and federal partners to bring women's perspective to the challenges and opportunities facing each community.

Moving forward, NOW is expected to meet quarterly. The group is working to formalize membership, an election procedure for an executive committee, and to develop a strategic plan that identifies common priorities. With a vision of becoming, "a strong network of women shaping the future of Northern Ontario communities", NOW is gaining momentum and has the motivation to legitimize the role of women in politics.

If you are interested in joining the NOW Caucus, please fill out this [survey](#) no later than March 8, 2024, at which point you will be added to our mailing list for future communications and upcoming meetings.

We look forward to welcoming you and strengthening the power of our voices.

Mayor Michelle Boileau  
City of Timmins

Mayor Cheryl Fort  
Township of Hornepayne

*Attachment: Terms of Reference*