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AGENDA FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday April 14th, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423626800?pwd=XskR76ygeA8babU4mX3YPyNcxOXYRy.1>

Meeting ID: 814 2362 6800

Passcode: 502611

1. CALL TO ORDER

Land Acknowledgement

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of April 14th, 2026 be approved as circulated. (Alternatively, amendments to be noted; with approval as amended.)

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT

5. DEPUTATIONS

None scheduled for this meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1-1 Minutes – Open Session Regular Council Meeting – March 24th, 2026

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 24th, 2026, be approved as circulated. (Alternatively, corrections to be noted; with approval as amended.)

6.1-2 Minutes – Open Session Special Council Meeting – March 28th, 2026

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the Special Council Meeting held on March 28th, 2026, be approved as circulated. (Alternatively, corrections to be noted; with approval as amended.)

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

7.1 Payroll Report

7.2 Payment Register

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments and cheque numbers 7819 to 7837 totalling \$119,883.53.

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS (as available)

8.1 Clerk's Report

8.2 Treasurer's Report

8.3 Public Works Report (no report this meeting)

8.4 Fire Chief's Report

8.5 Council Member Reports (verbal)

8.6 Reports from Other Agencies: as listed in the Clerk's Report

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the reports presented as listed in Section 8 of this evening's agenda. (Alternatively, directions to Administration as per Council's determination)

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Winter Road Maintenance – Council Direction on Start Times

9.2 Ratification of Interim Fire Apparatus Purchase – 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck – Report to Council

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ratify the purchase of a 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck acquired in June 2025 as an interim fire apparatus to maintain fire protection services, notwithstanding that the apparatus differs from the unit identified in Resolution 2025-112 and further confirm that the purchase fulfilled Council's original intent.

9.3 Community Reuse Initiative – "Treasure Days" (Discussion) – Report to Council

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the report regarding the Community Reuse Initiative – "Treasure Days" for discussion and provide direction to Administration if required.

9.4 Community Centre Table Handling – Report to Council

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the report regarding Community Centre table handling and provide direction respecting expectations for the setup, takedown, and handling of tables by permitted volunteers.

9.5 Elections Recount Policy

9.5-1 Elections Recount Policy Report to Council

9.5-2 Draft Elections Recount Policy

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Conmee hereby adopts the Elections Recount Policy (2026) to govern the conduct of election recounts for the 2026 municipal election and future municipal elections, as presented.

10 BYLAWS

10.1-1 Report to Council – Lame Duck Delegation By-law

10.1-2 By-law 2026-009 – Lame Duck Delegation By-law (2026 Municipal Election)

11 CORRESPONDENCE

List of Resolution Support Requests from other municipalities, agencies & the provincial government:
None scheduled for this meeting.

12 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Regular Council Meetings: April 28th, May 12th & 26th, June 9th & 23rd, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th & 22nd, October 13th, November 10th & 17th (Inaugural), December 1st & 15th, 2026.

13 CLOSED SESSION

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at ___ p.m., Council move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, to consider Item 13.1, being the Closed Session minutes of the Council meeting held March 24th, 2026 under the same authority as the original meeting; under paragraph 239(2)(d) of the same legislation, to consider Item 13.2, involving labour relations or employee negotiations; and under section 239(2)(b) of the same legislation, to consider Item 13.3 involving personal matters about identifiable individuals.

13.1 Minutes – Closed Session Regular Council Meeting – March 24th, 2026

13.2 Labour relations – Proposed seasonal staffing positions

13.3 Discussion regarding matters involving municipal employees

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being ___ p.m., Council rise from Closed Session and report in Open Session

14 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 24th, 2026, be approved as circulated. (Alternatively, corrections to be noted; with approval as amended.) AND THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

15 CONFIRMING BYLAW

By-law 2026-010 – To Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting

Recommendation: BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2026-010 be passed, and FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and the Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2026-010, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

16 ADJOURN

Recommendation: There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor declares the meeting to be adjourned at ___ p.m.

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGTuesday March 24th, 2026 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor David Halvorsen

REGRETS Councillor Chris Kresack

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Len Arps, Public Works Manager

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Olabisi Akinsanya-Hutka, HR Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council added Items 13.2 (Liaison) and 13.3 (Security).

RESOLUTION 2026–053**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell****Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of March 24th, 2026, be approved as amended.**CARRIED****3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT**4.1 TBDML Presentation**

Mayor Maxwell presented Councillor Arnold with a recognition gift in honour of 18 years of service on behalf of the Thunder Bay District Municipal League.

5. DEPUTATIONS

None scheduled for this meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**6.1 Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – March 10th, 2026**Council reviewed the minutes of the March 10th, 2026 Regular Council Meeting. No amendments were requested.**RESOLUTION 2026 - 054****Moved by: Councillor Maxwell****Seconded by: Councillor Arnold**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session of the regular council meeting of March 10th, 2026, be approved as circulated.**CARRIED**

7. **DISBURSEMENT LIST**

7.1. Payroll Report

No report scheduled for this meeting.

7.2. Payment Register

Council reviewed the payment register, including electronic bank payments and cheque disbursements. The Treasurer answered questions from Council.

RESOLUTION 2026-055

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments and cheque numbers 7795 to 7818 totalling \$68,452.12.

CARRIED

8. **REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

8.1. Clerk's Report

Council received the Clerk's verbal report. The Clerk advised that the NOHFC Deputy Clerk-Treasurer interim position has been posted on multiple employment platforms and will be included in the April newsletter.

The Clerk further advised that preliminary discussions were held with North Rock on March 18, 2026, regarding the potential future expansion of the Sovereign Road Landfill.

Council was also advised that the Township has registered to participate in the 2027 Provincial Emergency Exercise.

Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association was provided for information.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

There was no report from the Treasurer.

8.3. Public Works Report

Council received the Public Works Manager's report respecting winter operations. The Public Works Manager advised that winter road maintenance activities are ongoing, including plowing, snowbank cutting, scarifying, and ditch management.

Council was advised of repeated maintenance required at the culvert located at the intersection of Holland Road and Maxwell Road due to redirected spring water from a private property. Discussions have taken place with the property owner regarding corrective measures, and future costs may be charged if the issue persists.

Updates were also provided on landfill operations, the hauling of winter sand as required, cleanup of blowdown debris, and recent repairs to municipal vehicles and equipment.

8.4. Fire Chief's Report

There was no report from the Fire Chief.

HR Assistant joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

8.5. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell reported on attendance at the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition meeting held on March 17, 2026, where regional matters were discussed, including school transportation issues and coordinated municipal advocacy.

Mayor Maxwell further reported on attendance at a Social Committee meeting held on March 18, 2026, where preparations for upcoming community events were discussed, including the Easter Brunch scheduled for March 28, 2026.

She also reported on participation in budget review meetings held on March 19, 2026.

Council held preliminary discussions regarding the potential introduction of designated “treasure days” as a community reuse and waste diversion initiative.

Councillor Arnold reported on attendance at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit Board of Health meeting held on March 18, 2026.

Councillor Arnold further advised of an upcoming Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority meeting scheduled for March 26, 2026, and informed Council that the name change of the Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority to the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority is expected to be confirmed.

Councillor Halvorsen reported on participation in budget review meetings held March 19, 2026. Councillor Halvorsen further advised of upcoming meetings of the Lakehead Regional Planning Board and the Police Services Board and noted that discussions were held with the OPP Detachment Commander regarding liaison matters, to be addressed during closed session.

Councillor Maxwell reported on participation in budget review meetings held March 19, 2026. Councillor Maxwell also noted observations related to landfill usage and waste separation practices.

8.6. Other Agencies' Reports

Council reviewed correspondence and reports received from other agencies as listed in the Clerk's Report.

During discussion of correspondence from the Lakehead Public School Board respecting proposed changes to school board governance, Council expressed support for the retention of elected trustees and maintaining local representation in public education.

RESOLUTION 2026-056

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorize a Letter of Support be sent to the Lakehead Public School Board respecting the retention of elected trustees and proposed changes to school board governance, with copies forwarded to appropriate provincial and regional stakeholders.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-057

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the reports presented as listed in Section 8 of this evening's agenda.

CARRIED

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Hume Road Landfill – Requirement for Updated Closure Plan

Council considered a report regarding the requirement to prepare and submit an updated Closure Plan in order to formally close the former Hume Road Landfill under current provincial standards.

RESOLUTION 2026-058

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the Clerk to obtain proposals from qualified environmental consultants to prepare an updated Closure Plan for the Hume Road Landfill addressing the requirements of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and that staff report back to Council with a recommended consultant.

CARRIED

9.2 Greenmantle/A & A Timber Hauling Permit

Council considered the hauling permit application and discussed road conditions, half-load restrictions, and permit wording.

RESOLUTION 2026-059

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT consideration of the Greenmantle / A & A Timber hauling permit be tabled pending revisions to the permit conditions, and that a special Council meeting be scheduled to consider the revised permit.

CARRIED

Public Works Manager left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

9.3 Royal Canadian Legion – 100th Anniversary Proclamation Request

Council considered a report regarding a request from the Royal Canadian Legion, Kakabeka Falls Branch #225, for a proclamation recognizing the Legion's 100th anniversary.

RESOLUTION 2026-060

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Royal Canadian Legion 100th Anniversary Proclamation; AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor be authorized to sign the proclamation on behalf of the Township of Conmee.

CARRIED

9.4 Lakehead Rural Planning Board – Minor Variance Application 1A/01/26

Council considered a report and correspondence from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board respecting Minor Variance Application 1A/01/26.

RESOLUTION 2026-061**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell****Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council advise the Lakehead Rural Planning Board that there is no objection to Minor Variance Application 1A/01/26.

CARRIED**10. BY-LAWS**

There were no bylaws scheduled for this meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1-1 City of Ottawa – Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances

Council received this resolution for information.

11.1-2 Town of Whitby – Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

Council received this resolution for information.

RESOLUTION 2026-062**Moved by: Councillor Arnold****Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the resolutions presented as listed in Section 11 of this evening's agenda.

CARRIED**12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

The list of upcoming regular Council meeting dates was available for review. No changes were proposed.

13. CLOSED SESSION**RESOLUTION 2026-063****Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen****Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at 7:33 p.m., Council move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, to consider Item 13.1, being the Closed Session minutes of the Council meeting held March 10th, 2026, under the same authority as the original meeting; Item 13.2, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals under paragraph 239(2)(b); Item 13.3 involving security of the property of the municipality under paragraph 239(2)(a).

CARRIED

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2026-064**Moved by: Councillor Maxwell****Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:25 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.

14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-065

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on March 10th, 2026, be approved; AND FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed during Closed Session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2026-007

RESOLUTION 2026-066

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2026-007 be passed;
AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2026-007, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mayor Sheila Maxwell

Clerk Karen Paisley

MINUTES - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGSaturday March 28th, 2026 – 12:30 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor David Halvorsen

ABSENT Councillor Chris Kresack

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**RESOLUTION 2026-067**

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the special council meeting of March 28th, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED**3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

4. NEW BUSINESS**4.1 Greenmantle obo A & A Timber Hauling Permit**

The Clerk provided an overview of the application for Greenmantle Forest Inc./A & A Timber's haul permit. Council reviewed the application and draft haul permit. The updated permit contained revisions as directed by Council at the March 24th Council meeting. Council discussed the permit, expressed satisfaction with the revisions, and approved the haul permit.

Council determined that condition 11, stating that "no hauling of loaded vehicles shall occur during Half Load Restrictions," should be included as a standard condition on all haul permits moving forward.

RESOLUTION 2026-068

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Greenmantle Forest Inc./A & A Timber Ltd.

Hauling permit application, subject to Township By-law No. 1272 and the terms and conditions set out in the hauling permit, AND FURTHER authorize the issuance of the permit once all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

CARRIED

5. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2026-008

RESOLUTION 2026-069

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2026-008 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2026-008, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the special council meeting.

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Mayor Sheila Maxwell

Clerk Karen Paisley

Staff Payroll -March 13, 2026
 - March 27, 2026
 Council Payroll - March 31, 2026

	<u>Administration and</u>		
	<u>Public Works</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wages	22,189.15	6,442.45	28,631.60
EI	506.37	146.57	652.94
CPP	1,235.53	214.99	1,450.52
RRSP	896.98		896.98
mileage	239.15	90.52	329.67
total	<u>25,067.18</u>	<u>6,894.53</u>	<u>31,961.71</u>

**Township of Conmee
Payment Register**

Report Date

Batch: 2026-00055 to 2026-00065 2026-04-09 2:29 PM

Bank Code: GEN - TD Operating Account

Payment #	Vendor	Amount	
7819	Municipality Oliver Paipoonge	566.98	share of CRC
7820	RealTax Inc	1,469.00	register two properties
7821	Sarjeant Propane - garage	1,000.76	
7822	Ultramar	3,083.27	
7823	BMO RRSP	147.98	
7824	Catalis Technologies Canada Ltd	7,395.82	website
7825	CUPE	391.08	
7826	Kakabeka Falls Auto Centre	141.25	snow blower
7827	Kone Inc	239.92	
7828	McKitricks	4,656.73	PW by-law, fire dept by-law, OPG easement
7829	MNP	5,932.50	ARO
7830	MPAC	3,516.32	installment
7831	Rosslyn Service Ltd	70.04	belt
7832	Spectrum Telecom Group Ltd	748.06	
7833	Trillium Health Partners	1,500.00	fire dept training
7834	Thunder Bay DSSAB	8,306.00	
7835	Ultramar	2,479.55	
7836	BMO RRSP	166.48	
7837	Lakehead Cleaners	129.72	
	Total Cheques	41,941.46	
1	TD Visa	2,989.18	flights to AMO
1	TD Visa	1,192.97	
71	TD Visa	341.23	
123	Manulife	1,541.57	
123	Thunder Bay Xerographix Inc	83.15	copier
123	Hydro One Networks	352.27	
173	TD Visa	189.78	
300	TD Visa	921.45	
317	expense reimbursement	1,652.39	
655	Bell Canada	94.99	
865	TBayTel	406.80	
90mgz-7742019	Canada Revenue Agency	68,076.29	GST/HST
cash	snowplowing	100.00	
	Total EFT	77,942.07	
	Total Payments	119,883.53	

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Administrative Activity Report

File Number: 01-C10-0000 Administrative Activity Reports

Submitted by: Karen Paisley Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

For Council's information and direction as required.

BACKGROUND:

Administration's updates to Council on its ongoing activities.

DISCUSSION:

The Clerk is advising Council of a Ministry of Transportation proposal respecting the harmonization of municipal road construction standards across Ontario. The proposal would make certain Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipal Road Construction mandatory, with implementation proposed in phases beginning in 2027. While there is no immediate requirement for the Township to upgrade or pave existing gravel roads, the proposal may have longer-term implications for how future road, drainage, or culvert projects are designed and delivered in rural municipalities. The proposal includes future reporting requirements for municipalities, however, no reporting or compliance obligations apply at this time, as the regulation has not yet been finalized and is proposed to be phased in beginning in 2027. Staff will continue to monitor this matter and advise Council of any future developments that may affect the Township. Council is also directed to correspondence from the Municipal Engineers Association respecting the proposed harmonization of Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipal Road Construction, included on the agenda as Item 8.6-15.

The Township of Conmee has been advised that it was successful in its application for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 funding. The approval provides funding support for two summer student positions. Staff are awaiting the formal funding agreement from Employment and Social Development Canada and will proceed with recruitment in accordance with program requirements.

SASI attended at the Municipal Complex to replace the water system filters. SASI has advised that the water treatment work completed in the fall was successful, and that recent water testing results were good. Based on the test results, SASI adjusted the type of filters being used to better address the water quality at the facility. During this visit, SASI also identified an issue with a pump related to the filtration system. SASI will be returning to repair the pump. The pump issue affects water pressure, and as a result, water pressure at the Municipal Complex may be reduced during events or periods of high water usage until the repair is completed.

The Township has been offered a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation and Council to discuss highway safety concerns through the Township of Conmee. The meeting was initially scheduled for April 13, 2026; however, the Ministry has since advised that the meeting has been rescheduled to April 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually, and members of Council have been included on the Microsoft Teams meeting invitation.

The Clerk has initiated the process to obtain proposals from qualified environmental consultants to prepare an updated closure plan for the Hume Road Landfill. The updated plan is intended to address current Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requirements while referencing the Township's existing closure documentation where applicable. Once proposals are received and reviewed, staff will report back to Council with a summary of the proposed scope of work, associated costs, and a recommendation.

MicroAge attended at the Municipal Office to investigate an issue preventing access to the skate rink security cameras. The review determined that the issue appears to be related to the receiver equipment at the rink pavilion, which transmits the video signal from the rink to the office building. As a result, live streaming and recorded footage from the rink have not been accessible, while all other municipal security cameras remain functional. The issue was identified after staff were asked to review video footage in response to a concern raised prior to an event and discovered that video from the rink was unavailable. Baylock Security, a third-party service provider retained by MicroAge for security camera maintenance, will be attending the municipal property to repair the equipment and restore functionality. The last successful access to rink camera footage was December 27, 2025.

The Clerk attended an information session hosted by Deloitte on behalf of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and completed a province-wide municipal survey on planning and building permitting systems on behalf of the Township.

Correspondence has been received from the Unfreeze Ontario initiative advocating for the resumption of regular property assessments in Ontario and requesting Council consideration of a supporting resolution. See correspondence at item 8.6-5.

Other Agency Reports – 8.6

1. TBDSSAB Minutes – February 19 2026
2. Ontario Honours and Awards (MCM) – 2026 Senior of the Year
3. Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Notice of Further Assessment
4. NWMO Triennial Report 2023-25
5. Unfreeze Ontario – The Cost of Inaction
6. NOMA Board Minutes – January 28 2026
7. MNP 2026 Ontario Budget Summary
8. NOMA Response to ON Budget 2026
9. ADM Letter to Municipalities – Budget 2026
10. LRCA Feb 25 2026 Minutes
11. OCS Bulleting – 2026 Provincial Budget Highlights
12. TBDSSAB Municipal Presentations Policy
13. MNR New Gets Under Wildland Fire Management Act
14. NOMA Federal Gas Tax Announcement – April 2 2026
15. MEA Comments & Concerns Regarding OPS Harmonization

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Treasurer Report
Submitted by: Leanne Maxwell

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for Councils information

BACKGROUND:

The Treasurer reports to Council, at regular council meetings, as necessary, on their activities

FOR INFORMATION:

The office has purchased a Square Reader for card payments. We can now accept debit and credit cards at our events.

The Township was successful with their application for the Pothole Prevention Grant. We received \$38,000 on April 7.

A portapotty has been ordered for the playground, to be delivered on May 4, 2026.

The second installment of the Interim Tax Bill is due April 29, 2026.



**MINUTES OF BOARD (REGULAR SESSION) MEETING NO. 03/2026
OF**

THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

DATE OF MEETING: February 19, 2026

TIME OF MEETING: 10:10 a.m.

LOCATION OF MEETING: Microsoft Teams &
3rd Floor Boardroom
TBDSSAB Headquarters
231 May Street South
Thunder Bay, ON

CHAIR: Jim Vezina

PRESENT:

Albert Aiello
Anne-Marie Bourgeault
Shelby Ch'ng
Gordon Cuthbertson
Chris Eby
Brian Hamilton
Greg Johnson
Kathleen Lynch
Jim Moffat
Dominic Pasqualino
Don Smith
Jim Vezina

OFFICIALS:

Ken Ranta, Chief Executive Officer
Crystal Simeoni, Director, Integrated Social Services Division
Richard Jagielowicz, Director, Corporate Services Division
Dawnette Hoard, Manager, Child Care & Early Years Programs
Aaron Park, Manager, Housing & Homelessness Programs
Tomi Akinyede, Supervisor, Research & Social Policy
Carole Lem, Communications & Engagement Officer
Bindiya Patel, Communications Assistant
Larissa Jones, Communications Assistant
Glenda Flank, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Kasey Etrene
Elaine Mannisto

Note: For the purposes of the Minutes references to TBDSSAB or the Board refers to The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board of Directors as relevant to specific agenda items; references to TBDHC or the Board refers to the Directors of Thunder Bay District Housing Corporation as relevant to specific agenda items. References to CEO refer jointly to the Chief Executive Officer of TBDSSAB and Senior Administrator of TBDHC.

BOARD (REGULAR SESSION) MEETING

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Johnsen, Board Member requested that a discussion regarding having Administration attend budget discussions for the City of Thunder Bay and member municipalities Council meetings to discuss the TBDSSAB budget and respond to questions be added to the Agenda.

On consensus, this topic to be added to the March Agenda for discussion.

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Resolution No. 26/07

Moved by: Brian Hamilton
Seconded by: Chris Eby

THAT with respect to the Board Regular and Closed Session meetings of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board for February 19, 2026, we approve the agenda as presented;

AND THAT we approve any additional information and new business.

CARRIED

DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

None

CLOSED SESSION MEETING

Administration recommended that the Board adjourn to a closed meeting relative to receipt of information with respect to a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another statute.

Resolution No. 26/08

Moved by: Albert Aiello
Seconded by: Don Smith

THAT the Board adjourn to Closed Session relative to receipt of information with respect to a matter in which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another statute regarding the Child Care Capital Funding Update.

CARRIED

At 10:24 am the meeting reconvened in Regular Session, Dawnette Hoard, Manager, Child Care & Early Years left the meeting and Aaron Park, Manager, Housing & Homelessness Programs joined the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Board Meetings

Minutes of TBDSSAB Meeting No. 01/2026 (Regular Session) presented in Regular Session and Meeting No. 02/2026 (Closed Session) presented in Closed Session, held on January 15, 2026 were provided for confirmation.

Resolution No. 26/09

Moved by: Jim Moffat
Seconded by: Anne-Marie Bourgeault

THAT the Minutes of Meeting No. 01/2026 (Regular Session) and Meeting No. 02/2026 (Closed Session) of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, held on January 15, 2026, respectively, be confirmed.

CARRIED

Committee/Table Meetings

None

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION

Amalgamation of Community Housing Projects

Report No. 2026-02 (Integrated Social Services Division) was presented to the Board providing information regarding the transfer of assets of Chateaulac Housing Incorporated to Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation.

Crystal Simeoni, Director, Integrated Social Services Division provided a brief overview of the process involved regarding the transfer of assets and responded to questions.

Resolution No. 26/10

Moved by: Jim Moffat
Seconded by: Kathleen Lynch

THAT with respect to Report No. 2026-02 (Integrated Social Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, consent to the transfer of the assets of Chateaulac Housing Incorporated to Geraldton Municipal Housing Corporation.

AND THAT we authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute any related documentation required.

AND THAT a copy of the resolution be provided to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

CARRIED

NOSDA Pooling Association Agreement

Report No. 2026-03 (Chief Executive Officer Division), was presented to the Board providing information regarding the NOSDA Pooling Association and Administration's recommendation to enter into an Association Agreement.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided a brief overview of the discussions held with NOSDA and the development of the Association Agreement, provided Administrations recommendation to approve the signing of the Agreement and responded to questions.

Resolution No. 26/11

Moved by: Brian Hamilton
Seconded by: Albert Aiello

THAT with respect to Report No. 2026-03 (Chief Executive Officer Division), we The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board approve entering into an agreement with the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers' Association (NOSDA) Pooling Association to enable group access to federal and provincial housing development funding;

AND THAT we authorize the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer to execute the NOSDA Association Agreement and any related documentation required;

AND THAT any District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board project development opportunity considered for inclusion in the

NOSDA Pooling Association be brought to the Board for review and approval;

AND THAT any necessary By-law be presented to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED

At 10:39 am Tomi Akinyede, Supervisor, Research & Social Policy joined the meeting.

OrgCode Consulting Inc. Community Report on Homelessness

Report No. 2026-04 (Integrated Social Services Division), was presented to the Board providing the final Community Report prepared by OrgCode Consulting Inc.

Crystal Simeoni, Director, Integrated Social Services Division provided an overview of the report including the responses to OrgCode's survey provided to the community.

Tomi Akinyede, Supervisor, Research & Social Policy provided information regarding the development of information and materials regarding the survey conducted, results received and use of data and information results and responded to questions.

Aaron Park, Manager, Housing & Homelessness Programs provided information regarding the use of the information in developing the new TBDSSAB Housing and Homelessness Plan, use of data from reporting tool and responded to questions.

At 11:10 am Albert Aiello, Board Member left the meeting.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided further information, clarification and responded to questions.

2025 Fourth Quarter Operational Update

Report No. 2026-05 (Integrated Social Services Division), presented to the Board providing information containing the trends within TBDSSAB programs and services.

At 11:26 am Aaron Park, Manager, Housing & Homelessness Programs and Larissa Jones, Communications Assistant left the meeting and Albert Aiello, Board Member joined the meeting.

Crystal Simeoni, Director, Integrated Social Services Division provide a brief overview of the highlights from the 4th Quarter Operational Report and responded to questions.

Tomi Akinyede, Supervisor, Research & Social Policy provided further information and responded to questions.

Crystal Simeoni, Director, Integrated Social Services Division provided clarification.

At 11:32 am Tomi Akinyede, Supervisor, Research & Social Policy left the meeting.

2025 Fourth Quarter Strategic Plan Update

Report No. 2026-06 (Chief Executive Officer Division) was presented to the Board providing the 2025 fourth quarter progress Update on the 2024-27 Strategic Plan.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided a brief overview of the completion of the strategic objectives.

At 11:39 am Larissa Jones, Communications Assistant joined the meeting.

Advocacy & Engagement Annual Update

Report No. 2026-07 (Chief Executive Officer Division) was presented to the Board providing the annual update regarding Advocacy & Engagement.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided a brief overview of the report, highlighting the number of advocacy reports completed and responded to questions.

Indigenous Advisory Table - Update

Ken Ranta, Chief Executive Officer provided a verbal update relative to the Indigenous Advisory Table relative to the number of participants recruited for the Advisory Table, the steps to continue with recruitment to complete the complement of Table Members and responded to questions.

Carole Lem, Communications & Engagement Officer provided an update on the organizations and stakeholders contacted and the methods of media used to communicate the recruitment information to the public.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided clarification on development of the Terms of Reference and

On consensus, Administration to provide the Board with the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Advisory Table to assist in the recruitment of additional members for the Advisory Table.

CORRESPONDENCE

City of Thunder Bay Board Representation

City of Thunder Bay email received January 16, 2026 and Council Resolution was presented providing information regarding a change in representation on the TBDSSAB Board.

Ken Ranta, CEO provided an introduction to Shelby Ch'ng as returning Board Member replacing Ken Boshcoff.

BY-LAWS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., in the 3rd Floor Boardroom, TBDSSAB Headquarters, 231 May Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario and via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 26/12

Moved by: Shelby Ch'ng
Seconded by: Gordon Cuthbertson

THAT the Regular Session Board Meeting No. 03/2026 of The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, held on February 19, 2026, be adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair

Chief Executive Officer

From: [Ontario Honours And Awards \(MCM\)](#)
Subject: 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year / Prix ontarien de la personne âgée de l'année
Date: March 20, 2026 5:27:49 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

(Un message en français suivra)

**Ministry for Seniors
and Accessibility**

Minister

College Park
777 Bay Street
5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**Ministère des Services aux
aînés et de l'Accessibilité**

Ministre

College Park
777, rue Bay
5e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5



March 2026,

Dear Mayor, Reeve and Members of Council:

I am writing to invite you to [nominate](#) an exceptional local senior for the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

This award provides each municipality the opportunity to honour one outstanding senior for their contributions to enriching the social, cultural, and civic life of their community.

The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2026.

For more information on how to submit a nomination online, please visit the [Ontario Senior of the Year](#) webpage. Once your nomination is submitted, a personalized certificate with your nominee's name will be sent to you. I encourage you to present this certificate to your nominee in June during Seniors Month.

The Ontario government is proud to celebrate Seniors Month with municipalities across the province. Seniors generously give their time, knowledge and expertise making Ontario the best place in this country to live and work. It is important to take the time to celebrate our older population and acknowledge their invaluable contributions.

If you have any questions regarding the 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award, please contact Ontario Honours and Awards at OntarioHonoursAndAwards@ontario.ca.

From: [Nuclear Waste / Déchets Nucléaires \(IAAC/AEIC\)](#)
To: [Nuclear Waste / Déchets Nucléaires \(IAAC/AEIC\)](#)
Subject: Notification that a further assessment is required for the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project and the assessment is referred to a review panel / Avis qu'une évaluation approfondie est requise pour le projet de dépôt so
Date: March 23, 2026 2:11:12 PM

UNCLASSIFIED - NON CLASSIFIÉ

Le français suit

Hello,

You are receiving this email as you have an interest in the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project (the Project), located 21 kilometres southeast of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and 43 kilometres northwest of the Town of Ignace, Ontario.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), with input from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), has decided a further assessment is required for the project proposed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), and the impact assessment has been referred to an independent review panel. IAAC's [Notice of Impact Assessment Decision](#) and [Notice of Referral to review panel](#) have been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. As the Project includes activities that are regulated by the CNSC, IAAC and the CNSC will carry out an integrated impact assessment for the Project.

Next Steps

IAAC, in collaboration with the CNSC, is currently developing draft guidelines and a series of plans to define the scope, content, and conduct of the integrated assessment. IAAC and the CNSC anticipate holding a **public comment period in April 2026**, on these documents and will provide notice of the start of the comment period.

Kind regards,

Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project Team
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada
NuclearWaste-DechetsNucléaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

You are receiving this email because your contact information was added to the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project Integrated Assessment distribution list. If you would like to stop receiving notifications from this account, please email this account directly and ask to be removed from our distribution list.



NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

March 2026

Thank you for your continued interest in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO).

I am pleased to inform you that our 2023-25 triennial report is now available online at nwmo.ca/triennialreport2023_25 (printed copies available upon request). This document reflects three years of significant progress and collaboration, and it also lays out our five-year strategic plan for the long-term management of Canada's nuclear waste.

At the NWMO, we are taking action today to safely manage the country's nuclear waste in deep geological repositories for generations to come, working in collaboration with Canadians and Indigenous Peoples. Over the past three years, we have delivered on that responsibility in many significant ways.

In 2024, we reached the most significant milestone to date — selecting a site for a used nuclear fuel repository near the Township of Ignace, in the territory of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. We have since entered the federal regulatory decision-making process to confirm the project's safety and allow it to move closer to construction.

Building on this experience, we have also initiated first steps on a second repository project to safely manage intermediate-level and non-fuel high-level waste and potentially used nuclear fuel from new nuclear reactors. In 2025, we released a proposed approach for a site selection process for this second repository and are inviting feedback from the public over the next two years.

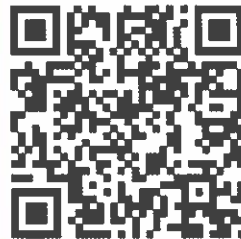
Leading the way in nuclear waste solutions that create a safe and clean future is an ambitious vision. It is one we know we can achieve through technical excellence and meaningful collaboration, from the grassroots level, all the way up to the international stage.

As we move forward, there will continue to be many opportunities for public engagement and knowledge sharing, as we advance the regulatory decision-making process for the used nuclear fuel repository project and develop the site selection process for the second repository project.

By working together, we know we will continue to deliver on our mission today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Laurie Swami
President and CEO



Our **2023-25 triennial report** looks at what we have accomplished over the past three years.

nwmo.ca/triennialreport2023_25

From: [Pamela Scanlon](#) on behalf of [Paul Sullivan](#)
Cc: [Pamela Scanlon](#)
Subject: Unfreeze Ontario - The Cost of Inaction
Date: March 25, 2026 12:53:02 PM
Attachments: [CDN_PT_Ontario_Property_Tax_Reform_v9.pdf](#)
[Motion to Reassess - Unfreeze Ontario.docx](#)

Good afternoon,

My name is Paul Sullivan and I am partner with Ryan. My role in the firm is to advocate on behalf of taxpayers to ensure fairness and equity through good tax policy. The frozen assessment roll in Ontario is hurting all types of businesses throughout our communities.

Please see attached background article as well as a proposed motion for Mayor and Council.

We hope you will pass a motion to this effect and contribute to making Ontario fair and competitive for all businesses. This is an urgent matter as Government must direct MPAC to create a 2027 Assessment Role in the near future. It would be anticipated that taxpayers would receive their new assessment in November.

Yours truly,

Paul Sullivan

Principal, Practice Leader Advocacy and Tax Policy Canada

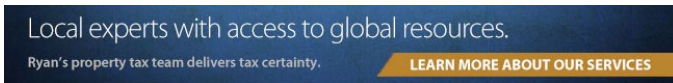
Ryan ULC

2500 – 320 Granville Street

Vancouver, BC V6C 1S9

604.331.7300 Direct / 604.341.3270 Mobile

Ryan.com/Canada





Ontario's Tax Freeze: Costing Jobs, Raising Prices

Unfair property tax policies are placing a hidden tariff on consumers, driving up the cost of goods and putting immense pressure on small businesses. Local retailers, the backbone of our communities, are overtaxed, threatening jobs and economic stability across Ontario.



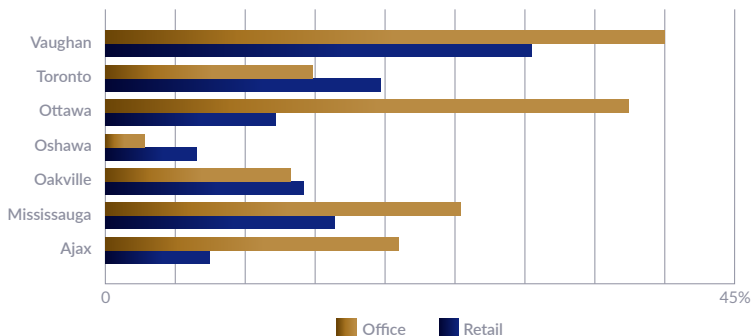
Who's Bearing the Hidden Consumer Tariff in Ontario?

Local Businesses, Unfairly Taxed

Unfair taxation is placing a hidden burden on local communities across Ontario. Independent businesses are overtaxed, driving up prices for consumers and putting jobs and livelihoods at risk. Residents are paying the price while trying to support their local retailers.

Residents want to support local businesses but are facing higher prices due to an outdated tax system that favors large properties. This province-wide issue is putting undue pressure on communities and demands immediate action.

Median Overtaxation



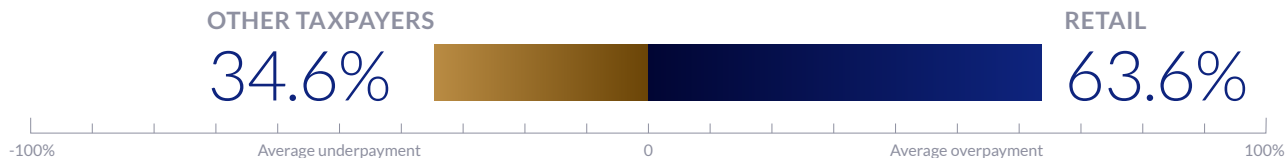
Retail and Office Tenants Overpay While Others Get a Pass

Ontario's outdated assessed values are putting jobs and local businesses at risk. Retail and office tenants are taxed based on inflated values, while other businesses get a pass—leaving everyday residents to make up the difference through higher prices.

It's time to reassess and restore fairness.



% Under/Over Taxation

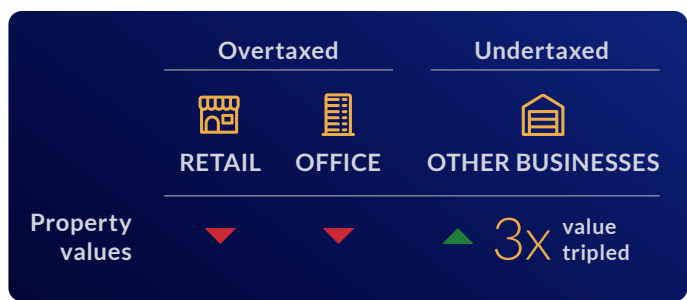


Assessed Value as % of Sale Price



Property Taxes Out of Sync with Reality

Ontario's property tax system is out of sync with market reality. Retail and office properties have declined in value, yet remain overtaxed, while other businesses—whose values have tripled—are undertaxed.



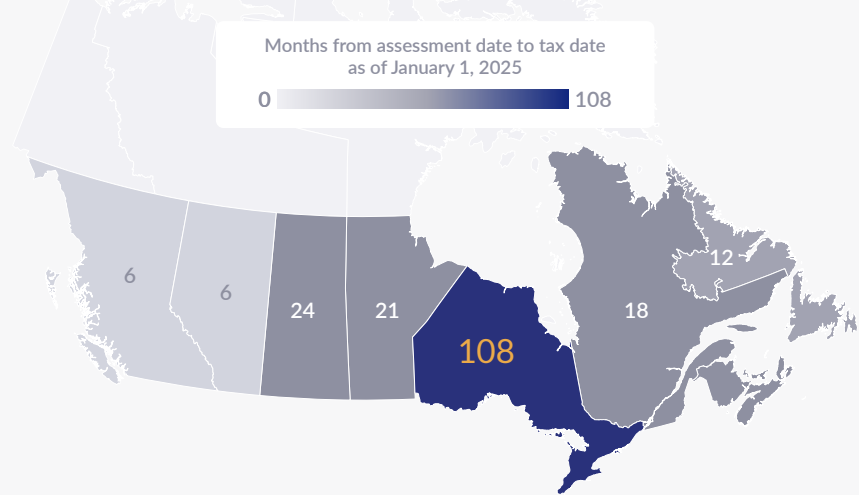
Without reassessment, struggling retail and office sectors face rising costs, lower occupancy, and mounting pressure.

The Only Province Without Reassessment Since the Pandemic

Ontario is the only province that hasn't reassessed property values since the pandemic. As of January 1st 2025, Ontario taxes were based on values that are 108 months in the past, while in the rest of Canada assessed values are 6-24 months in the past.

Regular reassessments give businesses the stability to plan and invest. Without it, struggling sectors like retail and office face uncertainty and discouraging costs.

How out of date are Ontario assessments?



It's Time to Reassess and Restore Fairness

Reassess Ontario's Properties: Support Local Jobs and Economic Balance

Learn more at ryan.com



We kindly request that that Council call on the Government of Ontario to promptly move to update property assessments in the Province.

The following resolution has been drafted for Council's consideration at its next meeting:

- **WHEREAS** a well-functioning and up-to-date assessment system supports strong communities and makes the province an attractive place to invest; and
- **WHEREAS** property assessments in Ontario have not been updated in over a decade, making them the most outdated in Canada, while provinces such as Alberta and British Columbia update assessments annually to reflect current market conditions; and
- **WHEREAS** the prolonged pause in the reassessment cycle has created significant distortions in assessed values, resulting in inequities among property classes; and
- **WHEREAS** outdated assessments negatively impact investment decisions, economic competitiveness, municipal planning, and disproportionately affect independent small businesses; and
- **WHEREAS** reassessments are designed to be revenue neutral for the municipality, ensure fairness in taxation, maintain public confidence in the property tax system, and support long-term municipal financial planning; and
- **WHEREAS** a coalition of municipalities, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, small businesses, and major property owners have called upon the Government of Ontario to update property assessments;
- **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of **[Name of Municipality]** hereby calls upon the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Finance to direct the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to promptly resume the regular property assessment cycle; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation for their consideration and timely action.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Absent: Wendy Landry, Kevin Kahoot, Kristen Oliver, Lisa Teeple, Roger Nesbitt

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by **President Rick Dumas.**

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Wendy Brunetta

Seconded by: Eric Peitsch

Decision: **Approved**

3. Approval of Minutes – Previous Meeting November 26, 2025

Moved by: Jin Vezina

Seconded by: Andrew Poirier

Decision: **Approved**

4. Appointment of Board Members – new Board Member

Motion: THAT Jon Hall, CAO Terrace Bay be appointed to fill a vacancy from the Thunder Bay District Municipal League – Administrative Seat

Moved by: Jason Young

Seconded by: Kerri Marshall

Decision: **Approved**

5. In Camera Session

Session not required

6. Financial Report

- Executive Coordinator (EC) Jason Veltri presented the financial report.

Motion: THAT the Financial Report be received and approved as presented.

Moved by: Eric Pietsch

Seconded by: Douglas Hartnell

Decision: **Approved**

7.0 Executive Coordinator’s Report (Pages 7-11)

Motion: THAT the Executive Coordinator Report be received and approved as presented.

Moved by: Jason Young

Seconded by: Wendy Brunetta

Decision: **Approved**

8.0 President’s Report – Rick Dumas – (Pages 12-14)

Motion: THAT the President’s Report be received and approved as presented.

Moved by: Jon Hall

Seconded by: Fred Mota

Decision: **Approved**

9.0 New Business

9.2 Updates from President Dumas and EC Veltri were provided to the Board on Northern Ontario Hill Days in Ottawa from Dec 1-3, 2025.

9.3 Board reviewed ROMA 2026, Delegation requests and schedule along with an update on the ROMA Delegation Book from NOMA

9.4 Upcoming Conferences NOMA plans to attend were decided and discussed.

9.4.1 **FONOM Conference** – Timmins, ON – May 11-13, 2026 – President Dumas and EC Veltri to attend from NOMA

9.4.2 **OFIA Conference** – April 28 – 29, 2026 – Toronto, ON - President Dumas and EC Veltri to attend from NOMA

9.5 The NOMA Board approved additional support for the FYD2025 entries into SAGE 50 to support a timely and through audit from Doane Grant Thornton. Board directive was provided to continue to use Doane Grant Thronton for this support.

9.6 Wendy Brunetta lead a discussion with the board on what other municipalities do or use with respect to how they approach grant and proposal Writing and what supports are available.

9.0 District Updates

- Updates were received from all three district municipal associations.

10.0 Issue Tracker & Advocacy Updates (If any)

Forestry & Softwood Lumber Tariffs – Rick Dumas & Wendy Landry	Police Costs – Andrew Poirier & Roger Nesbitt
Highways 11/17 – 2+1 Highway – Rick Dumas & Eric Pietsch & Andrew Poirier	Rural Building Faster Fund – Fred Mota & Rick Dumas & Roger Nesbitt

OMPF – Rick Dumas	Housing – Kristen Oliver
Immigration – Rick Dumas & Fred Mota	Healthcare – Wendy Brunetta
Mining – Rick Dumas and Fred Mota	Nuclear Waste MGMT Org – Kevin Kahoot & Jason Young & Roger Nesbitt
Land Use Planning & Energy – Jim Vezina	

11.0 Next Meeting

Date: March 25, 2026

Time: 9am to 12pm

Location: Thunder Bay, ON & virtual link provided

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at **10:12 a.m.**
- **Motion to adjourn:** Fred Mota

Minutes prepared by:

Jason Veltri, Executive Coordinator

Date approved by NOMA Board: March 25, 2026

Executive Coordinator Report

Reporting Period: December 1, 2025 – January 27, 2026, | **Prepared by:** Jason Veltri, Executive Coordinator **For:** NOMA Board of Directors

The period from December 1 to the present has been exceptionally active and productive for NOMA, with a strong focus on government relations, conference delivery and planning, sponsorship development, and advancing NOMA’s advocacy priorities on behalf of our 37 member municipalities. Key highlights include NOMA’s participation and leadership at the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference, the official launch of registration and accommodations for the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM, continued sponsorship outreach, federal advocacy efforts including Hill Days in Ottawa, and participation in strategic provincial economic forums.

2. ROMA 2026 Conference (Toronto)

NOMA attended and actively participated in the 2026 ROMA Conference, using the opportunity to advance priority advocacy issues and strengthen relationships with provincial leaders and partners.

Participated in multiple high-level delegations and meetings with provincial Ministers, Associate Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, and senior ministry officials. - Advanced NOMA’s core advocacy priorities, including: - Highway safety and reliability, with a continued emphasis on Highways 11 and 17 as critical national trade, supply chain, and community lifeline corridors. - Rural and remote housing challenges and the need for targeted, population-sensitive funding tools. - Immigration, labour, and workforce development solutions tailored to Northern and rural realities. - Engaged in the Ontario Ministers’ Forum, where NOMA leadership raised direct questions and concerns on behalf of Northwestern Ontario municipalities. - Strengthened working relationships with ROMA, FONOM, and municipal leaders from across Ontario.

The conference reinforced NOMA’s role as a credible, solutions-focused voice for Northwestern Ontario and provided renewed momentum heading into 2026 advocacy efforts.

3. 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM – Planning and Delivery

Significant progress has been made on planning and delivering the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM, scheduled for **April 22–24, 2026 in Thunder Bay**, with the conference theme **“Resilience.”**

Official launch of conference registration. - Confirmation and launch of hotel room blocks, including: - Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre (Host Hotel) - Hampton Inn & Suites - Home2 Suites - The conference agenda is now nearly full and is currently being refined and adjusted to ensure balance, relevance, and strong delegate value. - A total of four (4) session proposals were formally submitted during the call for proposals: - Two (2) proposals were accepted and integrated into the draft agenda. - Two (2) proposals were declined to maintain program focus and alignment

with conference priorities. - Continued coordination with speakers, partners, and sponsors to ensure a high-quality, timely, and engaging conference experience.

Planning remains on schedule, with final agenda refinements and logistical details underway.

4. Conference Registration Launch

The registration launch for the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM has been successfully executed.

Developed and distributed coordinated communications announcing registration and accommodations. - Responded to member inquiries regarding registration, pricing, hotel bookings, and conference logistics. - Began early monitoring of registration trends to inform planning, capacity management, and sponsorship value.

Early interest indicates strong engagement from member municipalities and partners.

5. Sponsorship Development and Outreach

Sponsorship outreach during this reporting period has **exceeded expectations**, with a very strong level of interest and uptake from partners.

Sponsorship sales are currently performing well above initial projections, demonstrating strong confidence in NOMA's advocacy work and the value of the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM. - High uptake has been observed across multiple sponsorship tiers, with several opportunities secured early in the planning cycle. - Continued momentum is expected as remaining sponsorship opportunities are finalized and promoted. - Active coordination is underway to ensure sponsors receive appropriate recognition, engagement opportunities, and value alignment with conference programming.

This strong sponsorship performance positions the conference well financially and enhances the overall delegate experience.

6. Federal Advocacy and Intergovernmental Engagement

NOMA advanced its federal and intergovernmental advocacy throughout the reporting period, both in Ottawa and here in Northwestern Ontario.

Hill Days in Ottawa: - Participated in federal advocacy efforts through Hill Days, reinforcing NOMA's priorities at the national level. - Key focus areas included: - Highway infrastructure and safety, positioning Highways 11 and 17 as essential components of Canada's national transportation and trade network. - The need for federal funding programs with clear guardrails, transparency, and equity to ensure Northern projects are appropriately prioritized. - Housing, labour, and immigration challenges facing rural and remote communities in Northwestern Ontario.

Thunder Bay Ministerial Meeting: - While Minister Gregor Robertson (Housing and Infrastructure) was visiting Thunder Bay, NOMA participated in a joint meeting with Minister Robertson, Minister Patty Hajdu (Jobs and Families / FedNor), and MP Marcus Powlowski. - The meeting included participation from Fort William First Nation Chief Michele Solomon, First Nation mining and construction sector leaders, FONOM, and NOMA Board members, reinforcing a strong, collaborative regional and Indigenous partnership.

Discussions focused on: - Key housing and infrastructure needs across Northwestern Ontario. - Labour and immigration priorities, including the importance of continued and expanded support for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot / RCIP, particularly for the Kenora and Rainy River Districts. - The critical importance of sustained investment in Highways 11 and 17. - NOMA emphasized the need to work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario to advance a nation-building Northern highway system, recognizing Highways 11 and 17 as vital to safety, economic development, supply chains, and community connectivity.

These engagements reinforced NOMA's role as a constructive partner across all orders of government and advanced a coordinated, long-term vision for Northern infrastructure and growth.

7. Ontario Investment and Trade Roundtable (Toronto)

The Ontario Investment and Trade Roundtable will take place on January 28 in Toronto, and NOMA has been formally invited to participate.

The Executive Coordinator will be attending on behalf of NOMA. - NOMA will be bringing Action 3 of the NOMA *Time to Grow* Plan to the roundtable, positioning Northwestern Ontario as a region ready for investment, growth, and partnership. - Work is underway with the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) to ensure regional opportunities are clearly articulated and showcased. - Engagement will focus on highlighting Northwestern Ontario's strengths in economic development, investment readiness, and municipal collaboration, while ensuring regional priorities are visible in provincial and global investment conversations.

This participation ensures Northwestern Ontario is proactively represented and well-positioned within Ontario's broader investment and trade strategy.

8. Regional Engagement – Rainy River District Municipal League (RRDML)

NOMA participated in the Rainy River District Municipal League (RRDML) Conference, held in Nestor Falls from January 9–11.

Engaged directly with municipal leaders from across the Rainy River District, strengthening relationships with many leaders NOMA regularly collaborates with. - Gained valuable insights into the district's current priorities, challenges, and opportunities, helping to inform NOMA's ongoing advocacy and regional alignment. - Provided updates on the upcoming 2026 NOMA Conference &

AGM, encouraging participation and engagement from Rainy River District municipalities. - Reinforced NOMA's commitment to working collaboratively alongside RRDML to advance shared regional priorities and support member municipalities.

This engagement further strengthened NOMA's regional presence and reinforced the Association's role as a responsive and collaborative partner.

9. Communications and Member Engagement

Throughout the reporting period, significant effort has been dedicated to communications and member engagement.

Regular social media and digital communications highlighting advocacy efforts, meetings, and events. - Coordination of media releases and public messaging related to ROMA, advocacy meetings, and conference announcements. - Ongoing responsiveness to member municipalities, partners, and stakeholders.

10. Looking Ahead

Key upcoming activities and priorities include:

- Kenora District Municipal Association Conference (Ignace – February):
 - NOMA will be attending the Kenora District conference in Ignace.
 - NOMA will be presenting directly to the membership alongside EVP Fred Mota and Vice-President Kevin Kahoot.
 - The presentation will include:
 - An overview of the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM and opportunities for member participation.
 - Updates on current advocacy priorities and active government relations efforts.
 - An open forum to answer questions and hear directly from members on regional priorities and concerns.
- Continued provincial and federal advocacy on highways, housing, immigration, and workforce development.
- Finalization and confirmation of the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM agenda, speakers, and logistics.
- Sustained sponsorship engagement and partner stewardship.
- Ongoing communications and engagement with NOMA's 37 member municipalities.

NOMA remains focused on proactive engagement, collaborative leadership, and delivering tangible value to member municipalities across Northwestern Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Veltri

Executive Coordinator

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

President's Report

Reporting Period: December 1, 2025 – January 27, 2026 **Prepared by:** Rick Dumas, President **For:** NOMA Board of Directors

Since December 1, NOMA has remained focused on advancing the collective priorities of our 37 member municipalities through strong advocacy, effective partnerships, and visible leadership across Northwestern Ontario and beyond. This reporting period reflects a high level of engagement at the provincial and federal levels, strong momentum toward the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM, and continued collaboration with municipal and Indigenous partners.

The work underway demonstrates NOMA's role as a unified, credible, and solutions-oriented voice for Northwestern Ontario.

2. Advocacy and Government Relations

NOMA leadership has continued to engage actively with provincial and federal partners to advance key priorities critical to the long-term sustainability of Northwestern Ontario communities.

Key Advocacy Themes: -

Northern Highways 11 and 17: Continued emphasis on highway safety, reliability, and capacity as essential national trade and supply-chain corridors. NOMA has consistently positioned the Northern highway system as a nation-building priority requiring coordinated federal-provincial investment.

Housing and Infrastructure: Advocacy has focused on the need for targeted, equitable investments that recognize the unique realities of rural and remote municipalities through the creation of a new Rural and Remote Building Faster Fund.

Labour and Immigration: NOMA continues to advance the importance of tailored labour and immigration solutions, including strong support for RCIP participation in Northwestern Ontario districts.

Through these engagements, NOMA has reinforced the importance of long-term planning, infrastructure resiliency, and fairness in funding decisions affecting Northern communities.

3. Intergovernmental and Regional Leadership

NOMA leadership participated in and supported multiple high-level engagements that strengthened the Association's visibility and influence.

- Engagements with federal Ministers and Members of Parliament reinforced the importance of aligning federal investments with provincial priorities to deliver meaningful outcomes in the North.

- Collaboration with regional partners, including FONOM, Indigenous leadership, and sector representatives, highlighted the shared priorities that unite Northern Ontario.
- Participation, with Jason attending district-level municipal conferences (RRDMA in January and will be attending and presenting in February for the KDMA Conference) strengthened NOMA's connection to members and ensured regional priorities continue to inform advocacy efforts.

These efforts underscore NOMA's commitment to inclusive, collaborative leadership.

4. ROMA 2026 and Provincial Engagement

NOMA's participation at the 2026 ROMA Conference provided an important platform to advance Northwestern Ontario priorities directly with provincial decision-makers.

- NOMA leadership participated in delegations, forums, and discussions with Ministers, Associate Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, and senior officials.
- Advocacy efforts at ROMA reinforced NOMA's consistent messaging around highways, housing, workforce development, and infrastructure resiliency.
- The conference provided valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships with municipal colleagues and provincial partners.

ROMA remains a critical venue for ensuring Northern voices are heard within provincial policy discussions.

5. 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM

Planning for the 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM continues to advance very positively.

- The conference theme, "**Resilience**," strongly reflects the challenges and opportunities facing Northern municipalities in 2026.
- Registration and accommodation bookings have launched successfully.
- Sponsorship uptake has been exceptionally strong, exceeding expectations and demonstrating confidence in NOMA's leadership and relevance.
- The conference agenda is nearly complete and is being refined to ensure high-quality, timely, and relevant programming.
- I would also like to acknowledge that **Jason Veltri is making incredible headway in conference planning**, and this progress is consistently reflected in my conversations with stakeholders and municipal leaders across the region.

The Board's leadership and visibility will be instrumental in ensuring the continued success of the conference.

6. Partnerships and Indigenous Engagement

NOMA continues to strengthen relationships with Indigenous partners and regional organizations, recognizing that meaningful collaboration is essential to advancing shared priorities across Northwestern Ontario.

- As part of a recent **NOMA joint meeting** with **Minister Gregor Robertson, Minister Patty Hajdu, and MP Marcus Powlowski**, NOMA included **Fort William First Nation Chief Michele Solomon** in the discussion.
- This engagement reflects NOMA's ongoing commitment to **continuing outreach to First Nations** and building stronger, more collaborative relationships moving forward.
- I would like to extend my thanks to **Jason Veltri, Executive Coordinator**, for ensuring Chief Solomon was invited and included in this important dialogue.
- NOMA will continue to work alongside Indigenous leadership, FONOM, and regional partners to advance infrastructure, economic development, and workforce priorities that benefit communities across the Northwest.

These efforts reinforce NOMA's commitment to inclusive leadership and respectful partnership.

7. Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming months, NOMA remains focused on: - Continuing coordinated advocacy with provincial and federal governments. - Supporting district-level engagement and member outreach. - Delivering a successful and impactful 2026 NOMA Conference & AGM. - Maintaining a strong, unified voice for Northwestern Ontario municipalities.

I would like to thank the Board, the Executive Coordinator, and our partners for their continued leadership, collaboration, and commitment to the communities we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Dumas

President

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association



2026 Ontario Budget Summary

Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy announced the province's 2026 budget on March 26, 2026. Highlights include:

- Decrease to small business tax rate from 3.2 percent to 2.2 percent, effective July 1, 2026
- Temporary enhancements to the New Housing Rebate and New Residential Rental Property Rebate, for eligible purchases between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027
- Provincial rebate on new homes for first-time home buyers, now effective March 20, 2025
- Various changes announced to beer, wine, and spirits taxation, effective April 1, 2026

Click the button below to view the 2026 Ontario budget highlights.

[Read the summary](#)

Contact your [MNP Advisor](#) for more information.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Building Ontario's Future Starts in the North**

March 26, 2026 – Thunder Bay, ON - The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) acknowledges the release of Ontario's 2026 Budget at a time of continued global economic uncertainty. As jurisdictions navigate inflationary pressures and shifting global conditions, Northwestern Ontario and the broader North are increasingly positioned as a driving force in Ontario's future prosperity.

"Northern Ontario is no longer just part of the conversation on economic growth — it is leading it," said Rick Dumas, President of NOMA and Mayor of Marathon. "As our region continues to grow through mining, energy, and resource development, it is essential that we build the infrastructure needed to support that growth and ensure long-term success for Ontario and Canada."

With continued expansion in mining and critical mineral development, growth in biomass and forestry innovation, and the potential development of a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in Ignace, the North is playing a central role in powering Ontario's economic engine.

NOMA is pleased to see the continuation of the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) Program for the next three years. This program remains an essential tool for municipalities across the region, supporting infrastructure, enabling economic development, and helping communities advance priority projects.

"The continuation of the NORDS program for the next three years is a critical investment in the future of Northern Ontario," added Dumas. "NORDS has proven to be a highly impactful tool for our municipalities, helping to unlock local economic opportunities, strengthen infrastructure, and support sustainable growth across the North. We thank Minister Pirie for his leadership and the Government of Ontario for recognizing the importance of this program and responding to the needs of Northern communities."

NOMA also welcomes several measures within the 2026 Budget that will directly benefit Northern communities and support broader economic growth across the province. The removal of the provincial portion of the HST on new home builds under \$1 million will support housing development and affordability, particularly in smaller and rural communities. Investments in Billy Bishop Airport will help strengthen connectivity between Northern Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area, supporting business, economic development, and access to services.

The Province's commitment of \$300 million over six years to the Community and Sport Infrastructure Fund is another important investment that will help municipalities address aging facilities and build stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. The doubling of the

Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF) will further support local transit systems that are critical to workforce mobility and community access. In addition, the reduction of the small business tax rate from 3.2 percent to 2.2 percent represents a significant step toward supporting local businesses and strengthening Ontario's economic competitiveness.

"The North is seeing real momentum, and our communities are ready to deliver," said Fred Mota, Mayor of Red Lake and Executive Vice President of NOMA. "Investments like NORDS, community infrastructure funding, and support for small business are helping to create the conditions for long-term growth and success across our region."

As Ontario continues to look north for growth and opportunity, NOMA emphasizes the importance of sustained investment in transportation infrastructure. The Province's recent announcement of targeted highway safety and infrastructure measures is a positive and important first step, reflecting growing recognition of the critical role Northern highways play within the Trans-Canada Highway network and in supporting Ontario's economy. However, continued and sustained investment in Northern highway infrastructure will be essential to fully unlock the region's economic potential.

The expansion of mining activity, including developments in the Ring of Fire, alongside increased movement of goods, services, and people, will place additional demands on the Trans-Canada Highway network across Northern Ontario. This includes advancing the twinning of Highways 11 and 17, completing the remaining twinning along the Highway 11/17 corridor, continuing progress on Highway 17 in the Kenora region, and delivering on long-standing commitments such as Phase 2 of the Shabaqua Extension from Kakabeka Falls to Shabaqua Corners. These investments are not only about supporting economic growth — they are critical to improving safety on some of the province's most dangerous corridors. Evidence consistently shows that highway twinning significantly reduces the risk of head-on collisions and leads to a meaningful reduction in fatalities.

NOMA looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Province of Ontario and all partners to advance shared priorities that support strong, resilient, and prosperous Northern communities. By working together to Protect Ontario through strategic investments in infrastructure, resource development, and community growth, we can build a strong, resilient, and powerhouse Ontario economy for decades to come.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Rick Dumas, President, NOMA

807-229-6842 | admin@noma.on.ca

March 27, 2026

Dear Municipal Treasurer / Clerk-Treasurer:

I am writing to advise you of a change to be introduced that will streamline municipal Education Property Tax (EPT) remittance processes. The change was announced in the recently released [2026 Ontario Budget | A Plan to Protect Ontario](#).

As you know, EPT helps fund the elementary and secondary education system in Ontario. However, the current EPT remittance system, which involves municipalities collecting EPT on behalf of Ontario and distributing the funds across 72 school boards, creates a cumbersome process for municipalities and school boards.

The government plans to modernize the administration of EPT through legislative changes to streamline municipal EPT remittance processes. Beginning in 2028, municipalities would remit EPT directly to Ontario. Building on legislative changes announced in the *2025 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review* to simplify EPT administration, this measure would significantly reduce the number of transactions between municipalities and school boards and thereby reduce both the administrative burden and costs for municipalities.

The Ministry of Finance understands that the modernization of the EPT remittance system would require process changes for municipalities, school boards and Ontario. As such, we plan to engage with municipalities and school boards prior to implementation in order to ensure a smooth implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Broughton, Director of the Property Tax Services Partnerships Branch at Chris.Broughton@ontario.ca or 416-455-6307.

Sincerely,



Ian Freeman, CPA, CMA
Assistant Deputy Minister
Provincial Local Finance Division
Ministry of Finance



February LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
February 25, 2026, at 4:30 PM
Thunder Bay Centennial Conservatory – 1601 Dease Street

Members Present:

Grant Arnold, Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Rudy Buitenhuis, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Not Present:

Albert Aiello, Trevor Giertuga

Also Present:

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Jessie McFadden, Stewardship Manager/Biologist
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda be adopted as published.

Motion: #31/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: *the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority 72nd Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 be adopted as published.*

Motion: #32/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. **CARRIED.**

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

No In-Camera meeting was held.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Correspondence received from the Township of Nipigon related to their submission regarding ERO posting #025-1257: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities supporting the LRCA's position to become the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority was noted.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Kam River Erosion Control - Victor-Broadway - Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan 2026

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-01-2026 which outlined the Kam River Erosion Control – Victor Broadway – Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Plan for 2026.

THAT: *Staff Report KAMEC-01-2026 be received.*

Motion: #33/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

8.2. Victor Street Monitoring Reports – 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report KAMEC-02-2026 related to the 2025 Victor Street Monitoring Reports.

THAT: Staff Report KAMEC-02-2026 and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated August 29, 2025, and the Victor Street Slope Monitoring Report, dated December 12, 2025 be received.

Motion: #34/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Dan Calvert. **CARRIED.**

8.3. Forest Management Plan: Annual Summary 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FORM-01-2026 which summarized the 2025 Forest Management Program. It was noted that the current LRCA Forest Management Plan expires on December 31, 2026; therefore, the Managed Forest Plan will be updated in 2026.

THAT: Staff Report FORMG-01-2026 be received.

Motion: #35/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

8.4. Asset Management Plan Update 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report LM-03-2026 which summarized the Asset Management Plan projects completed in 2025. It was noted that the Asset Management five-year update will be completed in 2026.

THAT: Staff Report LM-03-2026 be received for information.

Motion: #36/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. **CARRIED.**

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Members were provided with the monthly Treasurer's Report for January's Administration and Capital.

9.2. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule Update

Members reviewed and discussed a proposed update to the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule.

THAT: the 2026 LRCA Board Meeting Schedule, dated February 25, 2026 be approved.

Motion: #37/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**

9.3. 2026 Remuneration of Members

Members reviewed and discussed Board Policy BOD-06: Remuneration of Members related to an update to the Policy.

THAT: Board Policy BOD-06: Remuneration of Members be amended as outlined in Staff Report Policy BOD-06-2026.

Motion: #38/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026 cheque #3765 to #3795 for \$78,009.99 and preauthorized payments of \$130,443.89 for a total of \$208,453.88, we approve their payment.

Motion: #39/26

Motion moved by Dan Calvert and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. **CARRIED.**

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Input and Review program comments and Section 28 permits issued since last meeting.

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communication Manager Projects Update

Members were advised that the LRCA will have a booth at the CLE Spring Home and Garden Show which will take place on April 10 – 12, 2026.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

None.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the February 17, 2026, snow surveys indicated that the snow survey locations were slightly above average for snow depth and water content (except for Pennock Creek that was slightly below average for snow depth only) when compared to the historical averages for February 15th.

It was noted that LRCA staff gave a presentation on February 18th on the 2026 online Invasive Species Forum about “Managing Invasive Cattail for Northern Wild Rice Restoration in Lake Superior Provincially Significant Wetland.”

It was noted that the Stewardship Program received confirmation of funding for the following projects in 2026: Shoreline Protection Program from MNR; Cyanobacteria monitoring and stewardship program from MECP; tree seedlings and shrubs for Wishart Conservation Area re-plant from Tree Canada; 2026-2029 Hurkett Cove invasive cattail monitoring and management from Parks Canada.

It was noted that a new partnership had been formed between LRCA and MNR Fish and Wildlife to study Common Carp in Hurkett Cove Conservation Area.

Funding received from the Invasive Species Centre was used to survey Black Ash and Emerald Ash Borer at five of LRCA’s landholdings.

It was noted that Seeds for Conservation had collected seed from 40 different native species, with cold stratification processes initiated in February. A new partnership was formed with Lakehead University students to conduct germination trials assessing the viability of seed collected using standard testing protocols which were completed.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The Watershed Manager provided a verbal update related to expanding the scope of previously approved work with KGS Group to prepare design options to repair erosion at the outlet of the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel. It was noted that funding had been secured from the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) fund for 50% of the cost of the project.

THAT: *the Engineering Scope Change for the Design of Replacement Structure and Channel Improvements on the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway by KGS Group for a cost of \$65,500.00 not including HST be approved.*

Motion: #40/26

Motion moved Rudy Buitenhuis and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. **CARRIED.**

14. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Location to be confirmed prior to meeting due to LRCA Boardroom renovations.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being 4:55 AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

Motion: #41/26

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Rudy Buitenhuis. **CARRIED.**



Chair



Chief Administrative Officer

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Yesterday, the Provincial government released the **2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario**, projecting a **\$13.8 billion deficit for 2026–27**, with a return to balance now delayed to 2028–29.

For Ontario's ICI construction sector, the budget reinforces a continued reliance on **strong public-sector investment**, including increased infrastructure spending and major commitments in transportation, energy, and institutional projects. Large scale builds, such as highways, transit, and nuclear expansion, are expected to support thousands of jobs and sustain a robust project pipeline, helping offset private-sector activity and underpinning non-residential construction growth across the province.

Below are highlights of the budget that may affect Ontario's ICI sector.

Protect Ontario by Building

Ontario has a **10-year, over \$210 billion plan** to build Ontario including \$37 billion in 2026/27. This capital plan includes investments to get shovels in the ground faster, create more construction jobs, and lay the foundation for long-term growth and prosperity for communities across the province.

Building Transit: \$63B over 10 years to expand and improve public transit across the GTA and beyond

- Major subway projects: Ontario Line, Scarborough Subway Extension, Eglinton Crosstown West Extension, Yonge North Subway Extension
- LRT projects: Finch West LRT, Eglinton Crosstown LRT, Hamilton LRT, Hazel McCallion Line
- Other investments: TTC Line 2 trains, GO rail upgrades, Northlander return, East Harbour Transit Hub

Building Health Infrastructure: \$64B to expand and modernize hospitals, adding 3,000 beds

- Major projects: Fancsy Family Hospital (Windsor), Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital, Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus, South Niagara Hospital
- Other upgrades: Orillia Soldiers' Memorial, Stevenson Memorial, Bowmanville Hospital, Peel Memorial redevelopment

Building Post Secondary Infrastructure, Schools and Daycare Spaces: \$35.5B to educational facilities and daycare

- \$30 billion for schools and childcare space
- \$5.5B for postsecondary upgrades, and funding for municipal infrastructure.

Building Highways

- Ontario has started construction on Highway 413
- Building the Bradford Bypass, a new four-lane highway that connects Highways 400 and 404
- The QEW Garden City Skyway Bridge Twinning Project
- Construction of the new Highway 7 between Kitchener and Guelph
- Widening Highway 400, with new bridges being built at North Canal, Highway 88, Innisfil Beach Road and Dunlop Street in Simcoe to accommodate the future 10-lane highway
- Widen Highway 17 between Renfrew and Arnprior
- The government is also investing in highways in the North

Advancing Infrastructure Projects with the Building Ontario Fund

The Building Ontario Fund (BOF) continues to deliver on its mandate by advancing high-impact infrastructure investments in partnership with Canadian institutional investors and project proponents. In addition to its \$1 billion investment in the Darlington New Nuclear Project, BOF is also making investments in new projects for affordable housing and long-term care, including the following:

- Up to \$300 million to launch a housing initiative with High Art Capital
- A \$133.6 million investment, in partnership with Arch Corporation, in four long-term care homes that will create over 570 new and redeveloped beds
- An \$83 million investment in the first phase of affordable student housing development at Toronto Metropolitan University

Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

- Ontario is providing an additional **\$300 million over six years** to help meet the needs of growing communities by supporting the repair, upgrade or construction of new sport and recreation facilities
- This brings the total program funding to \$500 million

Investing in Skilled Trades and Construction-Related Talent

- Since 2020, Ontario has invested more than \$2.1 billion in skilled trades, with initiatives aimed at reducing stigma, streamlining the apprenticeship system, and increasing employer participation
- As announced in the 2025 Budget, the **province invested \$75 million over three years** to train up to 7,800 additional postsecondary students across Ontario for in-demand construction-related occupations

Supporting Skilled Trades Apprentices

Ontario is **investing \$64.2 million over three years** to create up to 4,000 new training seats each year, helping apprentices access in-class training faster, while covering their \$10-per-day Level 1 classroom fees. This investment is part of the \$159.3 million commitment announced in the 2025 Budget to strengthen skilled trades programs.

Protecting Workers and Businesses Against Tariff Impacts

The government continues to take action to protect Ontario from U.S. tariffs, supporting key sectors such as steel, manufacturing, forestry, and construction.

Support for Businesses

- **Protect Ontario Financing Program (POFP):** Provides working capital for affected businesses, including Algoma Steel, ensuring continuity and supporting critical supply chains
- **Protect Ontario Account Investment Fund:** Up to \$4B to invest in strategic sectors, domestic manufacturing, and critical minerals, strengthening supply chains
- **Trade-Impacted Communities Program (\$40M):** Supports municipalities, economic development organizations, and sector associations to enhance economic resiliency
- **Buy Ontario Act (2025):** Prioritizes Ontario goods and services in public procurement, including infrastructure projects, fleet vehicles, and construction-related investments

Economic and Fiscal Outlook

Ontario's economy showed resilience in 2025 amid U.S. trade uncertainty. Real GDP rose 0.5% in Q1, fell 0.7% in Q2, then rebounded 0.5% in Q3. Consumer spending remained resilient, rising 0.5% in Q1 and 0.7% in Q2, before a slight decline of 0.1% in Q3. Business investment in machinery and equipment declined over 6% by Q3 due to trade uncertainty.

Labour Market

- Employment increased by 80,900 jobs in 2025, mainly in the private sector; unemployment averaged 7.7%
- Trade-sensitive industries, including manufacturing and goods-producing sectors near the U.S. border, were disproportionately affected

Consumer Price Inflation

- CPI inflation averaged 1.9% in 2025, with energy prices down 7.4% (gasoline – 10.7%) and food up 3.2%
- Core inflation (excluding food and energy) rose 2.4%

Medium-Term Outlook

- Real GDP growth: 1.0% (2026), 1.7% (2027), 1.8% (2028), 2.0% (2029)
- Employment growth: 0.7% (2027), 0.8% (2028), 1.1% (2029)
- Unemployment rate projected to decline from 7.7% (2025) to 6.2% (2029)
- CPI inflation projected at 2.1% in 2026, returning to 2% medium-term

Fiscal Outlook

- Deficit: \$12.3B (2025–26), \$13.8B (2026–27), \$6.1B (2027–28)
- Surplus: \$0.6B projected in 2028–29
- Program expense projected to rise from \$212.1B (2024–25) to \$231.3B (2028–29, 2.2% CAGR).

Risks to Outlook

- Global trade tensions and CUSMA review may impact growth and inflation
- Geopolitical tensions and supply-chain disruptions could raise costs
- AI investment offers growth potential, with risks of market corrections

You can read the full budget **2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario** [here](#).





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Our File No.: SSB-10

March 27, 2026

District of Thunder Bay Municipal Councils

Attention: Chief Administration Officer

Re: TBDSSAB Program Delivery Presentations to Municipal Councils

At the December 11, 2025 TBDSSAB Board Meeting, the Board approved a policy relative to authorizing Administration to provide information presentations to municipal councils to ensure the entire district receives consistent information regarding TBDSSAB programs. A copy of the Policy is attached for your information.

Should your Municipality be interested in having TBDSAB Administration provide a presentation to your municipal council, please forward your request in writing directed to the Chief Executive Officer. Your request can be sent by mail or hand delivered to the Attention of the Chief Executive Officer, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, 231 May Street South, Thunder Bay ON P7E 1B5. The information can also be emailed to ea.inbox@tdssab.ca or faxed to 807-345-6146.

Should you have any questions relative to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Ken Ranta
Chief Executive Officer

KR/gf

Attachment: BRD-01:168 Municipal Presentations

Copy to: Municipal Clerk

POLICY	CATEGORY/SECTION BOARD - GENERAL
	SUBJECT MUNICIPAL PRESENTATIONS

AUTHORITY

Governance & Procedural By-law 03-2021

INTENT OF POLICY

To establish a clear and consistent framework to provide the District of Thunder Bay uniform and equitable access to TBDSSAB program delivery information. This may include the delivery of information presentations to municipal councils. This policy ensures that presentations are delivered in a manner that is informative, efficient, and aligned with the Board's approved priorities.

Definitions

Municipal Council – all District of Thunder Bay municipalities and Territory without Municipal Organization as identified in Schedule 6 of O. Reg 278/98 of the DSSAB Act.

Presentation – A high-level overview of TBDSSAB as an entity and the programs and services it delivers. Presentations may include general program access information, referral pathways, and appropriate publicly available statistical or operational data. Presentations will not cover day-to-day operational matters.

Policy

TBDSSAB is committed to the dissemination of timely, accurate and quality information to internal and external stakeholders. All external communications are aligned with TBDSSAB's vision and mission as well as the approved Strategic Plan.

Requests for information presentations for municipal councils may be made in writing at least 60 days prior to the date requested. Requests will be addressed on a first-come first-served basis and will be subject to availability and scheduling. Presentations may be delivered in person or remotely using Microsoft Teams or a similar virtual platform, as appropriate.

Any information shared at presentations to municipal councils will be comprised of information that is publicly available. Any information shared is not to be used for political advocacy or engagement without explicit approval of the TBDSSAB. Information of a confidential nature or relating to Board decision-making processes would not be shared.

Information presentations are intended solely to provide information and support council understanding of TBDSSAB programs and services. If council members provide comments, suggestions, or recommendations during or following a presentation, they will be considered feedback only. Information presentations to municipal councils are not considered to be Advocacy and Engagement, despite meeting with government officials, as outlined in the Advocacy and Engagement Policy (BRD-01:144).

TBDSSAB reserves the right to reschedule or decline presentation requests that cannot be accommodated without undue impact on operational priorities. A summary of each presentation will be retained for consistency of information and tracking of engagement. TBDSSAB may limit the number of presentations per council per calendar year, at the discretion of Administration.

STANDARDS OF APPLICATION

All requests for information sessions will be referred to the CEO for review and approval.

RELATED POLICIES

BRD – 01:111 Corporate Communication Policy
BRD – 01:144 Advocacy & Engagement

RELATED PROCEDURES

None

FORMS

None

Ministry of Natural Resources

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office
Provincial Services Division

300 Water Street
2nd Floor, North Tower
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint
Division des services provinciaux

300, rue Water, 2 Nord
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7



Date: March 31, 2026

From: Amanda Holmes, Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Services Division, Ministry of Natural Resources

Subject: **New regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act (WFMA)***

We are writing to let you know that the Ministry of Natural Resources posted a regulation decision notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) today (see notice number [025-1041](#)) to support the modernization of wildland fire management.

Ontario is building stronger and more resilient communities by addressing the growing risks of wildland fires through regulatory changes that will enhance prevention, mitigation and response efforts across the province.

A decision was made to implement the following regulatory proposals:

- to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs), and
- to make updates to the Outdoor Fires regulation.

On March 13, 2026, O. Reg. 44/26 ([Administrative Penalties](#)) was filed and takes effect April 1, 2026. This new regulation sets out the framework for issuing AMPs under section 35.2 of the *Wildland Fire Management Act (WFMA)*. Under this regulation, an AMP may be issued for contraventions of the WFMA and its regulations.

On March 13, 2026, O. Reg. 43/26 ([Wildland Fire Management](#)) was filed and takes effect April 1, 2026. The changes to O. Reg. 207/96 (Outdoor Fires) were made by revoking the regulation and replacing it with the Wildland Fire Management regulation. The changes were made to help the ministry continue to safeguard public safety and the sustainable management of natural resources.

The ERO notice also included a proposal to prescribe the rates, terms and conditions for when equipment and operators are summoned to support wildland fire emergencies. The ministry is continuing to consider feedback received on this proposal. The ERO notice will be updated when a decision has been made.

If you have any questions about the Administrative Penalties regulation or the Wildland Fire Management regulation, you can reach out directly to the team at the Ministry of Natural Resources at wildlandfire@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Amanda' written in a cursive style.

Amanda Holmes
Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Services Division
Ministry of Natural Resources

MEDIA STATEMENT**For Immediate Release****NOMA Raises Concern Over Proposal to Eliminate Federal Gas Tax, Citing Risks to Municipal Infrastructure and Northern Highways**

April 2, 2026 – THUNDER BAY, ON - The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) is expressing concern following recent calls by Pierre Poilievre to eliminate the federal gas tax.

NOMA recognizes that the pressure is real. Cost-of-living challenges are being felt across Northwestern Ontario and across the country. Municipal leaders see it every day—in housing affordability, rising service demands, and the growing strain on families and communities. Addressing affordability must remain a priority for all levels of government.

However, eliminating the federal gas tax is not the answer.

For municipalities, gas tax funding is a cornerstone of predictable infrastructure investment. It supports the roads, bridges, water systems, and transit networks that Canadians rely on every day. In Northern Ontario, that includes the Trans-Canada Highway system—Highways 11, 17, and the shared 11/17 corridor—which serves as the North’s equivalent of a 400-series highway network.

This corridor is not just a regional asset—it is a national one. It is the backbone of east-west trade, a lifeline for remote and rural communities, and essential to the movement of goods that power Canada’s economy. When this corridor closes, it doesn’t just disrupt the North—it divides the country.

NOMA has consistently called for sustained, long-term investment in this corridor, including highway twinning as the priority, supported by targeted 2+1 expansions where appropriate, alongside improved winter maintenance and strengthened enforcement. These are practical, proven solutions that improve safety, reduce collisions, and support economic growth—but they require stable and predictable funding.

At a time when municipalities are already managing significant infrastructure deficits, housing shortages, and growing demands related to mental health and addictions, removing a key funding tool would only deepen the strain. It would also undermine progress on critical, nation-building infrastructure projects that are essential to Canada’s future.

“Eliminating the gas tax may offer short-term relief, but it risks long-term consequences for municipalities and for Canada,” said Rick Dumas, President of NOMA. “Highways 11 and 17 are not just Northern roads—they are a national trade corridor. We need to be investing in them as a nation-building priority, not pulling back from the very tools that help us get there.”

The impacts of such a decision would be felt most acutely in Northern, rural, and remote communities, where distances are vast, costs are higher, and infrastructure is critical to economic development, resource industries, and national supply chains.

NOMA is calling on federal leaders to work collaboratively with municipalities, provinces, and Indigenous partners to address affordability in a balanced and responsible way—one that protects the long-term infrastructure investments communities depend on.

Strong municipalities are the foundation of a strong Ontario and a strong Canada. NOMA remains committed to advancing practical solutions that build safer highways, stronger communities, and a more resilient national economy.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Rick Dumas, President, NOMA

807-229-6842 | admin@noma.on.ca

From: [Conmee Clerk](#)
To: [Conmee Clerk](#)
Subject: FW: Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Regarding: OPS Harmonization
Date: April 10, 2026 11:42:00 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-A picture](#)
[Outlook-A picture .png](#)
[MEA Comments to MTO Regulatory Registry.pdf](#)
[MEA letter to MTO March 29 2026.pdf](#)
[Briefing Note.pdf](#)

Subject: Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Regarding: OPS Harmonization

Dear Municipal Clerk:

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) recently provided comments to the Province's plan to Harmonize Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS). The MEA's comments included:

1. Response dated March 29, 2026 to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*. Attached.
2. Letter to the Ministry of Transportation dated March 29, 2026 re: *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model*. Attached.
3. Delegation to MTO senior staff during the Good Roads Conference on March 31, 2026 (attached briefing note summarizes MEA's concerns).

The MEA Board of Directors recently passed a motion that all Ontario Municipalities be made aware of the MEA's comments and significant concerns regarding *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*.

We respectfully request that you please provide this email and the three attachments to your Municipal Council.

Sincerely,



D.M. (Dan) Cozzi P.Eng,
Executive Director



www.municipalengineers.on.ca

The content of this email is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice or an opinion of any kind. Use of the Municipal Engineers Association's (MEA) website and any communications between individuals requesting information and the MEA does not create or constitute, in any way, a professional or business relationship between the MEA, or any individual members, and the individual requesting information. Individuals requesting information from the MEA are advised to seek specific legal or other professional advice from their own legal counsel or other professionals, regarding any specific legal or other issues. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this email, the MEA does not warrant or guarantee the quality, accuracy or completeness of any information provided in this email, and the information contained in this email should not be relied upon as accurate, timely or fit for any particular purpose. The MEA also does not guarantee the security or confidentiality of any communications made by e-mail or otherwise through its web site. The MEA does not assume any responsibility for any misinterpretation or misapplication of any information contained in this email or on its website.

BRIEFING NOTE
**OPSS Modernization &
 Harmonization Concerns**



TO: Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)

FROM: Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

PURPOSE

To convey the MEA's significant concerns regarding the process and substance of MTO's proposed harmonization of the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS), and to request meaningful engagement before implementation proceeds.

BACKGROUND

The OPSS has long been grounded in a collaborative co-stewardship model between MTO and the MEA. Recent unilateral actions by MTO, without prior consultation with municipal stakeholders, are inconsistent with that partnership and risk undermining confidence in the framework. Successful change cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

KEY CONCERNS

1 LACK OF PROBLEM DEFINITION & EVIDENCE

The MEA is unaware of systemic failures in the current OPSS framework justifying the scale or urgency of proposed changes. MTO has not shared analysis, metrics, or benchmarking to support anticipated benefits. Municipalities expect the changes will increase, not reduce, administrative burden and project costs.

2 GOVERNANCE CLARITY & CO-STEWARDSHIP

It is unclear how the proposed model meaningfully differs from the current one, or how the MEA's co-stewardship role will be formally protected. The future of existing MTO/MEA technical committees, which provide critical municipal insight and issue resolution, remains uncertain.

3 EXEMPTIONS & ANNUAL REPORTING

Mandatory reporting and a new exemption approval process introduce material risk to project delivery. Without defined timelines and service standards, municipalities cannot reliably plan Council-approved programs. Blanket exemptions should be available for well-understood, low-risk practices.

4 ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL LIMITATIONS

Ontario municipalities operate under widely varying conditions including climate, geography, asset profiles, and labour markets. Effective standards must allow appropriate local flexibility to be practical and consistently applied province-wide. A uniform approach risks being neither efficient nor effective.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- ▶ **Pause implementation** to allow shared problem definition and evaluation of alternatives before proceeding.
- ▶ **Share supporting evidence** including analysis, metrics, and benchmarking used to justify the proposed changes.
- ▶ **Clarify the governance model** and formally embed the MEA's co-stewardship role within the new structure.
- ▶ **Define the exemption process** including review timelines, panel composition, and measurable service standards.
- ▶ **Establish a joint provincial working group** with municipal, MTO, consultant, and contractor representation.

CONCLUSION

The MEA remains committed to the OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. Should the MEA continue to be excluded from substantive governance decisions, it will need to re-evaluate its role and level of support for the framework. Transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive engagement is essential to any modernization that strengthens, rather than undermines, the credibility and effectiveness of the OPSS.

March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: MEA Comments to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003

We are writing to respond to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards.

Municipal engineers play a vital role in planning, maintaining, renewing, and constructing municipal infrastructure. Their expertise spans all aspects of municipal infrastructure services - from design and construction to project management and leadership – ensuring the successful delivery of both small and large-scale capital infrastructure projects.

Through its membership, MEA provides specialized knowledge in all areas of municipal engineering in Ontario. In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), MEA co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers training on Ontario Provincial Standards.

While we support the intent of the regulation to promote consistency, quality, and efficiency across municipal road construction projects, we recommend that additional consideration be given to the time and administrative burden associated with preparing, reviewing, and obtaining exemptions, as well as the cumulative impacts on project delivery arising from project-by-project assessments.

Exemption requests that require detailed technical justification across multiple evaluation criteria can take a considerable amount of time to prepare, particularly for complex or large-scale projects. This work frequently requires the involvement of senior engineering, technical, legal, and procurement resources, diverting limited capacity away from active project delivery. The time required to assemble a complete exemption request should therefore be recognized as a potential schedule, cost, and resourcing risk in its own right.

Equally important is the duration and predictability of the Minister's review and response timelines. When exemptions are assessed on a project-by-project basis without defined service standards or response timelines, projects may experience material delays while awaiting decisions. These delays can produce cascading impacts, including missed construction windows, contractor demobilization and remobilization costs, loss of price certainty, and increased exposure to supply-chain volatility. For time-sensitive or critical

infrastructure projects, even relatively short delays in regulatory decision-making can result in disproportionate impacts to project schedules and budgets.

To better reflect these realities, we recommend that the exemption framework explicitly consider additional criteria, including:

- Administrative and decision-cycle timelines, including the anticipated time required for review and approval and the impact of uncertainty on project planning and procurement;
- Cumulative impacts across multiple projects, particularly where similar exemption requests are repeatedly submitted for comparable project types or conditions;
- Schedule dependency and critical path impacts, including whether delays in exemption approval would directly affect construction sequencing, seasonal work constraints, or contractual obligations; and
- Consistency and precedent considerations, whereby prior approvals for similar circumstances could support streamlined or standardized decision-making, rather than requiring repetitive project-level analysis.

Incorporating these considerations would help ensure that the exemption process supports timely and efficient project delivery while still meeting regulatory objectives. Clear expectations regarding submission requirements and response timelines, as well as opportunities for programmatic or category-based exemptions where appropriate, would significantly reduce risk to project schedules and budgets without compromising safety, performance, or sustainability outcomes.

Looking ahead, and assuming the Ministry is able to successfully deliver the current list of harmonized standards within the proposed timeframe, we agree that the remaining OPSS.MUNI standards should be prioritized for future harmonization based on where the greatest time, cost, and administrative efficiencies can be achieved. In our view, this would include:

- Standards with the highest frequency of use across municipalities, where harmonization would reduce repetitive project-specific reviews, municipal deviations, and contract amendments;
- Standards that routinely generate exemptions, interpretations, or disputes, indicating inconsistency or misalignment that drives additional design effort, approval cycles, or delays;
- Standards that significantly affect project schedules or cost certainty, including those related to materials, construction methods, or inspection requirements that influence procurement and delivery timelines;

- Standards that overlap or interact closely with those already harmonized, where alignment would enhance system coherence and reduce unintended conflicts or inefficiencies; and
- Standards that affect regional or multi-jurisdictional projects, where inconsistent requirements currently increase coordination challenges and administrative complexity.

A transparent, phased approach, supported by demonstrated progress on the initially harmonized standards, would help ensure that future harmonization efforts are achievable and deliver tangible benefits. Clearly articulating how the Ministry will complete the current scope, and how lessons learned will inform the prioritization of remaining standards, will be essential to achieving intended efficiency gains without overextending implementation capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important initiative. We would welcome continued engagement as the regulation is refined and implemented.

Sincerely,



Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,
MEA President 2025 – 2026
(Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Strategic Capital Coordination Office
City of Toronto)



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March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model

On behalf of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and our municipal members, we acknowledge the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's (MTO) ongoing efforts to maintain and modernize the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS). As partners and co-stewards of the OPSS, the MEA recognizes the importance of ensuring these standards remain current, effective, and responsive to the evolving needs of infrastructure delivery across Ontario.

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit organization representing more than 1,300 professional engineers working across 110+ Ontario municipalities, along with engineers from provincial agencies, conservation authorities, and consulting firms serving smaller municipalities. With a history spanning over 60 years, MEA was formed through the amalgamation of the City Engineers Association and the County Engineers Association. The association supports excellence in municipal engineering, recognizing the critical role municipal engineers play in planning, delivering, maintaining, and renewing infrastructure. The MEA provides specialized expertise across all areas of municipal engineering and, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers related training across the province.

The long-standing success and credibility of the OPSS has been built on a collaborative partnership between the MTO and the MEA, grounded in co-stewardship, shared accountability, and balanced provincial and municipal technical expertise. The recent unilateral actions by the Ministry are inconsistent with the principles of partnership, and collaboration that have historically underpinned the success of the OPSS. Successful change and adoption cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions and their consequences, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

The MEA has significant concerns regarding both the process and substance of the proposed harmonization of standards, including the lack of meaningful engagement with MEA and other municipal stakeholders, and the absence of a clear, shared understanding of the issues driving these proposed changes. These concerns are material and must be addressed if the changes are to be successfully implemented, broadly adopted, and supported over the long term.



Problem Definition, Need for Evidence and Supporting Data

At present, it is unclear what problems or deficiencies the MTO perceives to exist within the current OPSS framework. The MEA and its members are not aware of systemic failures or performance issues that would warrant the breadth, scale, or urgency of the changes being proposed. It is also unclear how these changes are expected to lead to reduced costs, improved efficiency, or better outcomes.

The MEA respectfully requests that the MTO clearly identify the concerns with the current framework, and share any analysis, metrics, benchmarking, or other evidence used to justify the anticipated benefits of the proposed modernization. Municipalities are concerned that the proposed changes will likely increase administrative burden, project complexity, and overall costs rather than achieve the intended efficiencies.

There are legitimate questions being raised about how a one-size-fits-all approach can successfully address the diversity of municipal conditions and requirements across Ontario. There is also apprehension that additional approval steps, reporting requirements, and governance layers will likely introduce project delays, uncertainty, and higher delivery costs without demonstrated public or operational benefit.

Clarification on the Modernized Governance Framework

The MEA respectfully requests clarification on how the proposed governance framework differs in a meaningful way from the current model. Municipal and industry engagement, along with technical input into standards development and review, already occurs through established existing technical committees, working groups, and consultation processes.

To build understanding and confidence, MTO must clearly articulate the added value of the proposed approach, including:

- What new roles, authorities, or decision-making structures would be introduced;
- What changes are anticipated in how standards are prioritized, approved, or updated; and
- How the proposed model will measurably improve efficiency, cost-efficiency, transparency, or consistency compared to the existing framework.

Annual Reporting, Exemptions and Compliance

The MEA understands the proposed framework would require mandatory annual reporting to the MTO including the introduction of a new approval process for exemptions. There are significant concerns related to the administrative burden these processes will put on municipalities, which will in turn affect their ability to deliver



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projects and programs successfully in any given budget cycle. The administrative effort this approval process creates, without understanding the process, review requirements or timelines, is not demonstrative of an overall benefit. Clarity on these matters is essential. An opaque or slow exemption process introduces material risk to project delivery, schedules, costs, and contractual certainty.

Further clarification on annual reporting collection is essential to understanding the purpose and anticipated outcomes. Specifically, the MEA is requesting more information on the following:

- The specific purpose of the reporting;
- How the data will be used to inform decisions or policy;
- How reporting will account for local context and project complexity; and
- Will the reporting be the basis to track compliance.

Further clarification on the exemption process is perhaps even more essential, as it presents an even greater risk to successful project delivery if the process is overly burdensome, lengthy and lacks defined service standards. Expectations and timelines will need to be factored when municipalities are building programs for infrastructure renewal and rehabilitation. Even at these early stages, municipalities are flagging risks with their ability to deliver Council approved commitments if the exemption process is not clearly defined, and is not well supported. It is imperative that the MTO clarify the following:

- How exemptions will be reviewed and approved;
- Who will sit on the review panel and how municipal representation will be ensured;
- What service standards or timelines will apply to exemption decisions;
- Would an Ontario municipality continue to be recognized as a sponsor for new or revised standards when requests originate from a non-member; and
- What penalties or consequences are contemplated for non-compliance.

A one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect the realities of infrastructure delivery across Ontario. Municipalities operate under widely differing conditions, including climate, geography, asset profiles, operational constraints, material and labour market availability. Effective standards must allow flexibility to account for these differences if they are to be practical, efficient, and consistently applied province-wide.

In this context, the MEA and several municipalities have raised the need for blanket or standing exemptions in certain circumstances where efficiency can be demonstrably improved without compromising safety or performance. Requiring repeated case-by-case exemption requests for well-understood, low-risk municipal practices is viewed as inefficient and counterproductive. A model that combines clear standards



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with appropriate flexibility and blanket approvals would better reflect local conditions and established municipal engineering practices while maintaining safety and performance.

Broader Impacts Across the Infrastructure Delivery Sector

While municipalities are directly affected, it is important to underscore that these proposed changes have far reaching implications beyond municipal owners alone. Designers, consulting engineers, contractors, suppliers, and other industry partners will also be impacted through changes to standards, approvals, contract administration, project schedules, and risk allocation. Successful modernization must therefore consider the full infrastructure delivery ecosystem, not solely municipal compliance obligations.

Partnership, Co-Stewardship, and Governance

The absence of the MEA from MTO's proposed development, roll-out and implementation of a standardized OPSS has raised concerns that the framework will shift toward a centralized, MTO-led model and will no longer function as a true partnership or co-stewardship.

The MEA requires clarity on how our role as co-steward will be explicitly protected and embedded within the proposed governance structure. Without a clearly defined, formalized role in decision-making and oversight, municipal confidence in the governance framework will be significantly undermined.

Further, the MEA seeks immediate clarification on the future role of the existing MTO/MEA specialty committees. These committees provide critical technical review, municipal insight, and issue resolution. It is uncertain whether they will be replaced, duplicated, or marginalized under the new framework, and how authority and accountability will be allocated going forward.

Path Forward and MEA's Ongoing Role

In the spirit of collaboration, the MEA offers the following constructive proposal to support a more effective and broadly supported outcome:

- Pause implementation to allow time for a shared understanding of the issues MTO is seeking to address and to explore whether alternative, more effective solutions exist;
- Pursue targeted harmonization, recognizing that some alignment is beneficial while preserving local flexibility. This should include the use of standardized



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requirements where appropriate, complemented by blanket or standing approvals to reduce repetitive exemption requests;

- Map proposed review, approval, and reporting processes in detail and work collaboratively to identify and address pressure points before implementation;
- Establish a provincial working group, with representation from MEA members, MTO staff, and subject matter experts across Ontario, to identify priorities, risks, and opportunities from multiple perspectives;
- Engage consultants and contractors to understand how proposed changes will affect design, construction, procurement, and risk allocation and
- Ensure the process is not rushed, recognizing that thoughtful, inclusive development is essential to achieving sustainable and credible outcomes.

The MEA remains committed to the success of OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. However, meaningful partnership requires transparency and evidence-based decision-making, appropriate inclusion in governance, and genuine shared stewardship aligned with municipal realities.

Should the MEA continue to be excluded from the governance model or from substantive decision-making related to OPSS, the MEA will need to re-evaluate its role, partnership, and level of support for the framework moving forward. Our strong preference is to address these issues proactively through dialogue, collaboration, and shared clarity around roles and objectives. Providing the requested data, clarifying governance roles, addressing exemption and compliance concerns, and slowing implementation to allow proper consultation are necessary first steps.

The MEA welcomes the opportunity for prompt discussion and looks forward to working collaboratively to ensure any changes to OPSS strengthen—rather than undermine—the confidence, effectiveness, and partnership that have long defined its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penelope Palmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,
MEA President 2025 – 2026
(Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Strategic Capital Coordination Office
City of Toronto)

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Ratification of Interim Fire Apparatus Purchase – 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck

File Number: 10-V05-0004 Freightliner Pumper Truck

Submitted by: Karen Paisley, Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council ratify the purchase of a 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck acquired in June 2025 as an interim fire apparatus to maintain fire protection services, notwithstanding that the apparatus differs from the unit identified in Resolution 2025-112 and confirm that the purchase fulfilled Council's original intent.

BACKGROUND:

At a Special Council Meeting held on June 4, 2025, Council passed Resolution 2025-112 authorizing the purchase of an interim pumper fire truck to address the failure of the Township's primary fire apparatus and to maintain emergency fire protection services. At the time of Council's decision, the need for an interim apparatus was considered urgent due to service continuity requirements, liability concerns, and the potential impact on insurance coverage and mutual aid arrangements. During a review of prior Council resolutions related to another matter, it was identified that the purchase of the interim fire apparatus differed from the unit referenced in Resolution 2025-112 and had not been formally ratified by Council.

DISCUSSION:

Following Council's authorization, the Fire Chief continued to assess available apparatus options to ensure that an appropriate interim replacement was secured to maintain emergency fire protection services. Through this process, a 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck was identified as a suitable option that met the Township's operational needs and fulfilled Council's intent to obtain an interim fire apparatus.

The 2004 Freightliner Pumper Truck ultimately acquired differs from the apparatus referenced in Resolution 2025-112. The alternate unit was selected based on availability, reliability, and operational suitability at the time of purchase and was acquired to fulfill Council's authorization to secure an interim fire apparatus in response to the failure of the Township's primary truck. The fire truck was funded through existing fire department reserves and operating funds previously discussed by Council. Ratification of the purchase does not result in any additional or unbudgeted financial impact.

This report is presented to formally ratify the purchase and ensure the municipal record accurately reflects the interim fire apparatus acquired on behalf of the Township. Ratification will align Council's records with the operational action taken to maintain emergency fire protection services and confirm Council's original intent.

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Community Reuse Initiative – “Treasure Days” (Discussion)

File Number: 13-E07-0003 – Waste Management - Recycling

Submitted by: Karen Paisley, Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive this report for discussion and provide direction to Administration, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

During the Regular Council Meeting held on March 24, 2026, Council discussed the concept of introducing designated “treasure days” as a potential community initiative intended to encourage reuse and waste diversion. No formal direction was provided at that time.

The term “treasure days” typically refers to designated periods during which residents place unwanted but reusable household items at the curb for others to collect at no cost, with any remaining items later removed through regular waste collection services.

This report has been prepared to outline the concept at a high level and to identify considerations for Council’s discussion.

DISCUSSION:

The concept of “treasure days” is generally intended to promote waste reduction, reuse of goods, and community sharing, with the potential to divert reusable items away from landfill. Depending on how implemented, such initiatives may vary considerably in form and level of municipal involvement. In some municipalities, treasure days are informal, community-led events with minimal municipal involvement, while in others they are more structured and municipally coordinated.

Council may wish to consider whether any potential initiative would be:

- a one-time community event,
- a pilot initiative held on a limited basis, or
- a recurring activity.

Council should also consider the extent of municipal involvement, if any, including whether the initiative would be administered by the Township, referred to a community or social committee, or remain resident-driven with minimal staff or operational involvement.

Treasure day initiatives may raise considerations relating to safety, liability, enforcement of existing bylaws, and operational impacts. No commitments, approvals, or implementation actions are proposed through this report.

If Council wishes to explore the concept further, Administration can return with additional information, including examples from other municipalities, potential policies or protocols, and any operational or risk considerations identified by Council. The “treasure days” concept presents a potential opportunity to encourage community reuse and waste diversion; however, further consideration and Council direction would be required before any action is taken.

This report is provided for discussion purposes only to assist Council in determining whether the concept should be explored further. There are no direct financial implications associated with this discussion report. Any future costs would depend on the level of municipal involvement directed by Council.

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Community Centre Table Handling

File Number: 06-C10-0002 Reports to Council – Administrative Reports

Submitted by: Karen Paisley, Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive this report for information and provide direction on how tables are to be set up, taken down, and handled in the Municipal Hall when this work is done by permitted volunteers, including those associated with the Rural Cupboard Food Bank.

BACKGROUND:

The Municipal Hall is used regularly by community groups and volunteers for a variety of activities. As part of that use, tables are often set up and taken down. In some cases, this work is carried out by volunteers with the knowledge and approval of staff and Council, including in connection with the Food Bank's use of the hall.

Council has raised concerns about ensuring that tables and flooring are looked after and that municipal property is protected as this use continues.

DISCUSSION:

At the moment, volunteers are allowed to set up and take down tables, but there hasn't been a clear discussion or confirmation by Council about how that work should be done. This has led to some uncertainty around expectations and handling practices.

The purpose of this report is simply to bring the issue forward in open session so Council can talk about it and, if it chooses, set clear expectations. Doing so would help everyone involved understand what is expected, support volunteers in doing the work properly, and give staff clear direction to apply a consistent approach going forward.

Following Council's discussion, administration can then communicate any agreed-upon expectations to users of the hall to help prevent damage and protect municipal furnishings.

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Adoption of Updated Elections Recount Policy for the 2026 Municipal Election

File Number: 06-C07-2026 Elections

Submitted by: Karen Paisley, Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the **Elections Recount Policy (2026)**, as presented, to govern the conduct of election recounts for the 2026 municipal election and future elections.

BACKGROUND:

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 provides for mandatory recounts in circumstances where there is a tied vote and allows Council to establish additional parameters for recounts through the adoption of a local recount policy. Any such policy must be adopted on or before May 1 of an election year to be effective for the upcoming regular election.

The Township's current Elections Recount Policy was adopted in October 2022 and requires updating to reflect current legislative requirements, remove outdated references, and clarify recount procedures for the 2026 municipal election. In particular, the existing policy includes fixed dates that are no longer applicable and does not fully reflect the current framework under the Municipal Elections Act and associated regulations.

DISCUSSION:

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 requires the Clerk to conduct a recount when election results produce a tied vote and permits Council to establish additional circumstances under which a recount may be held through the adoption of a local recount policy. Any such policy must be approved on or before May 1 in an election year in order to apply to the upcoming regular municipal election.

The proposed Elections Recount Policy (2026) is intended to provide Council, candidates, and electors with a clear and transparent framework for how recounts would be conducted in the Township of Conmee should the need arise during the 2026 municipal election. The policy outlines the circumstances in which recounts may occur, the timelines that apply, who may attend a recount, and the procedures the Clerk must follow to ensure fairness, consistency, and compliance with provincial legislation.

In addition to addressing mandatory recounts in the event of a tied vote, the policy establishes a defined "close vote" threshold, whereby a recount would be automatically conducted if the difference between the elected candidate and the next highest candidate is ten votes or fewer.

Establishing a close vote threshold in advance reduces uncertainty, promotes transparency, and supports public confidence in the integrity of the election process. Adoption of this threshold requires Council approval before May 1, 2026.

The policy also addresses recounts that may be ordered by Council, the Minister, or the Superior Court of Justice, and sets out clear notice and procedural requirements to ensure recounts are conducted in a consistent and orderly manner. The procedures reflect current legislative requirements and are consistent with recount practices implemented by other Ontario municipalities.

Approval of the Elections Recount Policy (2026) will ensure the Township is prepared to respond appropriately to any recount situation and provides clarity to all stakeholders well in advance of Voting Day.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE ELECTIONS RECOUNT POLICY

Date Adopted:

Review Cycle: Every four years

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear, transparent, and legislatively compliant procedure for conducting election recounts for municipal elections in the Township of Conmee.

2.0 PURPOSE

A recount shall be conducted in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, and Ontario Regulation 101/97, and in the same manner as the original count unless otherwise ordered by the Superior Court of Justice.

A recount shall be held in the following circumstances:

1. Where there is a tied vote and both or all candidates cannot be declared elected (mandatory recount).
2. Where Council passes a resolution requiring a recount within 30 days of the Clerk's declaration of results.
3. Where a recount is ordered by the Minister or the Superior Court of Justice.
4. Where a close vote occurs, as defined in this policy.

Close Vote Definition (Policy Trigger):

A close vote is defined as a difference of **ten (10) votes or fewer** between a candidate declared elected and the candidate not elected for the same office.

3.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to the Clerk and all election officials involved in the administration of a municipal election or by-election in the Township of Conmee.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The Clerk is responsible for conducting all recounts for elections for which the Clerk is responsible under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

Recount:

A repeat tabulation of votes cast in an election to determine the accuracy of the original count.

Close Vote:

A vote difference meeting the threshold defined in Section 2.0 of this policy.

6.0 PROCEDURE

6.1 Mandatory Recount – Tied Vote

Where there is a tied vote for an office and both or all candidates cannot be declared elected, the Clerk shall hold a recount within **15 days** of declaring the election results.

6.2 Recount by Council Resolution

Council may, by resolution passed within **30 days** of the Clerk's declaration of results, require a recount of the votes cast for an office.

The recount shall be held within **15 days** of the resolution being passed.

6.3 Judicial or Ministerial Recount

Where a recount is ordered by the Superior Court of Justice or the Minister, the Clerk shall conduct the recount in accordance with the order and applicable legislation.

6.4 Persons Entitled to be Present at a Recount

The following persons are entitled to be present:

- The Clerk and any election officials appointed to assist with the recount
- Every certified candidate for the office subject to the recount
- The applicant, where applicable
- Legal counsel for any of the above
- One scrutineer appointed by each certified candidate or applicant
- Any other person authorized by the Clerk

6.5 Notice of Recount

The Clerk shall provide written notice of the date, time, and place of the recount to:

- All certified candidates for the office subject to the recount
- Council, where a resolution is involved
- Any applicant or party specified in a court or ministerial order

Notice shall be provided by personal delivery, email, or registered mail.

6.6 Conduct of the Recount

Once commenced, the recount shall continue to completion.

Votes shall be re-tabulated using the same method as the original count.

Upon completion, the Clerk shall announce the results.

6.7 Tie Vote After Recount

If a tied vote remains after the recount, the Clerk shall determine the successful candidate by lot, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

6.8 Declaration of Final Results

Unless a further application for a judicial recount is made, the Clerk shall declare the final certified results of the election **16 days after** the recount is completed and shall provide notice to all prescribed persons.

7.0 REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed every four years prior to the next regular municipal election.

**The Corporation of the Township of Conmee
Administrative Report**

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Subject: Lame Duck Delegation By-law – 2026 Municipal Election

File Number: 01-C07-2026 Municipal Elections

Submitted by: Karen Paisley, Clerk

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council enact By-law No. 2026-009, being a by-law to delegate authority to the Clerk to exercise certain powers during a restricted (“lame duck”) period following Nomination Day for the 2026 municipal election.

BACKGROUND:

Section 275 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* restricts a municipal council from taking certain actions after Nomination Day or following a municipal election where Council is in a restricted or “lame duck” position. These restrictions apply only in prescribed circumstances and remain in effect until the commencement of the new term of Council.

Subsection 275(6) of the Act provides that authority delegated prior to Nomination Day may continue to be exercised during the restricted period. Municipalities commonly address this by enacting a by-law in advance of Nomination Day delegating limited authority to a designated officer to ensure the continuity of municipal operations during the election transition period. The Township of Conmee enacted a similar by-law for the 2022 municipal election. Administration is bringing forward an updated by-law in advance of the 2026 municipal election to ensure that appropriate authority is in place should Council become restricted.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed by-law delegates limited authority to the Clerk to act on matters that Council would otherwise be restricted from addressing under subsection 275(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The delegation is narrow in scope and applies only where action is necessary to support the continued administration and operation of the municipality during a restricted period. The delegated authorities mirror those established for the previous election cycle and include decisions related to senior appointments, staffing actions, significant property dispositions, and unbudgeted expenditures exceeding established thresholds. Any actions taken under the delegated authority must be reported to Council at the first regular meeting of the new Council term.

The by-law, if enacted, would apply only if Council enters a restricted position and would expire automatically upon the commencement of the new Council term on November 15, 2026.

Passing this by-law well in advance of Nomination Day provides procedural certainty, avoids the need for consideration during the election period, and ensures that the Township is prepared to address operational matters without interruption should Council be restricted.

The by-law has been prepared in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Township's Procedural By-law, which permits by-laws to be enacted by a single resolution where no other statutory requirements apply.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE

BY-LAW #2026-009

Being a By-law to authorize the delegation of authority to the Clerk for certain acts during a "Lame Duck" period following Nomination Day for the 2026 municipal election and prior to the commencement of the new Council term.

(Delegate Authority — Restricted Acts After Nomination Day)

Whereas Section 23.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, authorizes a municipal council to delegate its powers and duties;

And Whereas Section 275 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* restricts a municipal council from taking certain actions after Nomination Day or following an election, if the council is in a restricted ("lame duck") position;

And Whereas under Section 275(6) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, nothing prevents any person or body exercising any authority of a municipality that is delegated to the person or body prior to nomination day for the election of a new council;

And Whereas Council of the Corporation of the Township of Conmee deems it expedient to delegate limited authority to the Clerk during any period in which Council is restricted under section 275 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*;

NOW THEREFORE THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Delegation of Authority

If Council is in a restricted position ("lame duck") following Nomination Day for the 2026 regular municipal election (August 21, 2026) and/or following Election Day (October 26, 2026), and prior to the commencement of the new Council term, Council hereby delegates authority to the Clerk to take action, where necessary, in respect of the matters restricted under subsection 275(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, limited to the following:

- a. the appointment or removal from office of any officer of the municipality;
- b. the hiring or dismissal of any employee of the municipality;
- c. the disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality having a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal; and
- d. the making of any expenditure or incurring of any other liability exceeding \$50,000 that has not previously received budget approval.

2. Conditions and Scope

The authority delegated by this by-law shall be exercised only where the Clerk determines that the action is necessary for the continued administration and operation of the municipality during the restricted period.

3. Reporting to Council

The Clerk shall report to Council on any actions taken under the authority of this by-law at the first regular meeting of the new Council, or sooner if practicable.

4. Prior Delegations Unaffected

Nothing in this by-law prevents any person or body from exercising authority that was delegated prior to Nomination Day for the 2026 municipal election.

5. Expiry

This delegation of authority shall expire upon the commencement of the new term of Council on November 15, 2026.

6. Effective Date

This by-law comes into force and effect on the date of its passage.

Passed this 14th day of April, 2026.

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE

Mayor Sheila Maxwell

Clerk Karen Paisley

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE

BY-LAW # 2026-010

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting.

Recitals:

Subsection 5(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, Chapter 25, as amended, requires a municipal Council to exercise its powers by by-law, except where otherwise required.

Council from time to time authorizes action to be taken which does not lend itself to an individual by-law.

The Council of The Corporation of the Township of Conmee deems it desirable to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meeting by by-law to achieve compliance with the Municipal Act, 2001.

ACCORDINGLY, THE COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Ratification and Confirmation

The actions of this Council at its meeting held April 14th, 2026, with respect to each motion, resolution and other action passed and taken by this Council at the meeting, are adopted, ratified and confirmed as if such proceedings and actions had been expressly adopted and confirmed by by-law.

2. Execution of all Documents

The Mayor of the Council and the proper officers of the Township are authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the actions authorized at the meeting, and/or to obtain approvals where required, and except where otherwise provided, the Mayor and Clerk are authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents and to affix the Corporate Seal of the Township to such documents.

Passed this 14th day of April, 2026.

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CONMEE

Mayor Sheila Maxwell

Clerk Karen Paisley

Chiefs Report MARCH 2026:

This month Conmee Emergency Services has responded to one MVC, one C.O alarm, and 3 medical calls.

Training has resumed weekly with an emphasis on onboarding our new members, 2 of which have begun the online pre-class work for their NFPA FF1 certification.

The drier that was ordered through the cancer prevention grant has been installed and looks like it will be an excellent piece of equipment that will expedite our firefighters return to operational readiness in a way that hanging our previously washed gear on a ladder could never accomplish.

We have approximately \$9000 left from this grant that I have proposed to go toward new turnout gear. Going forward I am hoping to have a plan to replace gear before it expires by purchasing at least 2 new sets every year (dependant on staffing retention). we currently have three sets that are to expire near the end of this year.

Our E&R bylaw has been passed, and talks are being arranged with neighbouring departments to continue the conversation on shared services. Services such as Incident Command, Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Fire Investigator, Training and administrative services, are certified positions that could possibly be filled, or assisted, with a shared service model. In my opinion, this is just a start in what could be a great improvement for not only our community but the fire service as a whole in our region.

The staff and council have been amazing in their support of our department for the last two years. Improvements have been immense, and the fire department from 4 years ago would not be recognizable. I have concluded that the deficits within our department currently are this.

1. New (although ambitious and eager) inexperienced staffing
2. A lack of water supply, particularly in the winter
3. Aging equipment and apparatus
4. No water shuttle/ tanker.

I would like to begin to make plans for a water tender to be purchased when funds are available. This does not need to be a new order, it does not need to be a 'state of the art' apparatus, but it needs to be capable of bringing a substantial amount of water to a

scene (2500 – 3000 G) and supporting fire suppression efforts. This is not only required to fulfill mutual aid requirements, but it is also necessary in all rural environments where a consistent and readily available water source (hydrants) are not available.

While there are many challenges to our small volunteer department, I am very pleased and excited that things are progressing, and that the Conmee Emergency Services is making improvements and moving forward.