



# AGENDA

**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Of the  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association**

**Friday, December 19, 2025**

**8:30 a.m – 1:30 p.m.**

**AMO**

**155 University Ave, Suite 800**

**Toronto, ON**

**M5H 3B7**

**Meeting Room:  
Large Boardroom**

**Video Conference Call**

**PRESENT:**

Chair Christa Lowry, Municipality of Mississippi Mills (Zone 8)

**Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives:**

Jamie McGrail, Councillor, Municipality of Chatham-Kent (Zone 1)

Steve McCabe, Councillor, Township of Wellington North (Zone 2)

Dave Beres, Deputy Mayor, Township of Tillsonburg (Zone 3)

Christina Early, Councillor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)

Pam Sayne, Councillor, Township of Minden Hills (Zone 5)

Jennifer Murphy, Councillor, County of Renfrew (Zone 6)

Carma Williams, Deputy Mayor, Township of North Glengarry (Zone 7)

Mark Wilson, Councillor, City of Temiskaming Shores, (Zone 9)

Janet Hager, Councillor, Municipality of Red Lake (Zone 10)

Dane Nielsen, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Grey Highlands (AMO Rural Caucus)

Nathan Townend, Deputy Warden, County of Lennox & Addington (AMO Rural Caucus)

Nicole Martin, CAO, Township of Amaranth (AMO Rural Caucus)

Tanya Vrebosch, Councillor, City of North Bay (AMO Rural Caucus)

Natasha Salonen, Mayor, Township of Wilmot (AMO Rural Caucus)

**Staff:**

Lindsay Jones, Executive Director, AMO  
Petra Wolfbeiss, Director, Membership Centre, AMO  
Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy, AMO  
Afshin Majidi, ROMA Executive Treasurer  
Alicia Neufled, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO  
Myha Truong Regan, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO  
Jason Hagan, Program Manager, LAS  
Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO  
Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Policy, AMO  
Adam Garcia, Manager, Executive Office, AMO  
Victoria van Veen, Team Lead, Events and Training, AMO  
Lora Tigno, Administrative Assistant, Membership Centre, AMO  
Henry Khamonde, Membership Services Administrator, AMO  
Farah Tayabali, Vice President, Redbrick  
Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick

**Guests:**

Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh  
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister, Ministry of Rural Affairs  
Tanner Zelenko, Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, MMAH  
Matthew Novakovic, Interim Chief of Staff, MRA  
Faiq Farooq, Senior Policy Advisor, MRA  
Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services and Chief Paramedic, County of Renfrew

**Regrets:**

None identified

**Early Departure:**

Natasha Salonen, Mayor, Township of Wilmot (AMO Rural Caucus)

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1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions – Christa Lowry

The Chair welcomed members and staff. Chair Lowry opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

*"We recognize that our work at ROMA, and the work of our members, takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across Ontario.*

*Today, while this meeting includes people who have joined from across the province, we are currently assembled in Toronto, which was founded on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.*

*We recognize and respect the history, languages, knowledge, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples whose presence continues to enrich our communities".*

2. Declaration

- Pecuniary interest – none declared
- Early departure – identified above

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

3. Approval of Friday, December 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda (Pages 1-5)

Members reviewed the agenda.

**Motion:** *“That the Board approve the agenda for Friday, December 19, 2025.”*

**Moved:** *Janet Hager*

**Seconded:** *Natasha Salonen*

CARRIED

4. Approval of Friday, October 17, 2025, ROMA Meeting Minutes (*Pages 6-17*)

Members reviewed the minutes.

**Motion:** *“That the Board approve the minutes of Friday, October 17, 2025.”*

**Moved:** *Steve McCabe*

**Seconded:** *Dave Beres*

CARRIED

5. Executive Treasurer Report – Afshin Majidi, Executive Treasurer

Afshin Majidi reviewed the Q3 Financial Statements indicating a strong financial standing.

a. Q3 ROMA Financial Statements (*Pages 18-23*)

**Motion:** *“That the September 2025 financial statements be accepted as presented.”*

**Moved:** *Pam Sayne*

**Seconded:** *Jamie McGrail*

CARRIED

b. 2026 ROMA Budget (*Pages 24-31*)

Afshin presented the financial plan for the 2026 ROMA Conference, noting that delegate revenue targets are anticipated to be on target. As indicated previously, the trade show sold out, and sponsorship is expected to meet revenue targets. He further advised that expenses for 2026 will be adjusted to account for anticipated annual increases in security services, food, and beverage costs.

Preliminary planning considerations for the 2027 ROMA Conference, were tabled, specifically the potential need to increase conference rates to align with inflationary pressures and prevailing industry standards.

**Motion:** *“That the ROMA Board approve the proposed 2026 budget.”*

**Moved:** *Jennifer Murphy*

**Seconded:** *Mark Wilson*

CARRIED

c. ROMA Conference Venue – 2029 to 2032 (*Verbal*)

Based on Board approval, it was confirmed that the Sheraton Centre Toronto will continue to be the host venue of the ROMA Conference through 2029 to 2032.

**Motion:** “That the ROMA Board receive as information the confirmation that the Sheraton Centre Toronto will continue to serve as the host venue for the ROMA Conference.”

**Moved: Tanya Vrebosch**

**Seconded: Nicole Martin**

CARRIED

d. Options on ROMA Chair Per Diem

The ROMA Board directed Afshin Majidi at the next meeting of the Board, to table options for consideration and approval by the Board concerning the ROMA Chair per diem.

**Motion:** “That the ROMA Board direct Executive Treasurer to report back regarding on options for the ROMA Chair per diem.”

**Moved: Nathan Townend**

**Seconded: Pam Sayne**

CARRIED

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. AMO Board of Directors Meeting Report Back – November 28, 2025 - Christa Lowry/All (*Verbal*)

Chair Lowry provided an overview of key matters arising from the November AMO Board of Directors meeting:

- As of February 1, AMO will transition its communications support and practice for AMO, LAS, ONE Investment, MEPCO, and CCBF toward strengthening internal capacity and with support by the communications firm, Curious Public.
- Chair Lowry provided an overview of the key findings in the 2025 AMO Membership Survey.
- The AMO Board considered a revitalized approach to its Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

**Motion:** “That the Board receive as information the report back from the November 28, 2025, meeting of the AMO Board of Directors.”

**Moved: Steve McCabe**

**Seconded: Dane Nielsen**

CARRIED

7. Policy Briefing

- a. Conservation Authority Consolidation – Karen Nesbitt, Director, Policy and Governmental Relations, AMO (*Pages 32-69*)

The Policy Centre provided an update on AMO's advocacy position around the proposed consolidation of conservation authorities (CAs). Staff shared concerns with the proposed changes, noting that it will result in a loss of established relationships and local knowledge. The scale and pace of the proposed changes risk increasing regulatory burden and costs. AMO will engage with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to advance the creation of an implementation working group that would have CA, municipal and Indigenous representation.

**Motion:** *"That the ROMA Board receive the update on AMO's position regarding the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities and the potential creation of a provincial oversight agency," and "That the ROMA Board direct staff to schedule a discussion with the Chief Conservation Executive."*

**Moved: Dane Nielsen**  
**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

CARRIED

8. FONOM, NOMA and OSUM Sponsorship - Christa Lowry/All (Pages 70-72)

Chair Lowry and the board members reviewed the FONOM, NOMA and OSUM Sponsorship requests for 2026 of \$10,000.00 for each organization.

**Motion:** *"That the Board approve the \$10,000 sponsorship to each of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, and the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities for their 2026 annual conferences."*

**Moved: Pam Sayne**  
**Seconded: Dane Nielsen**

CARRIED

9. 2026 ROMA Conference Update – Petra Wolfbeiss, Director Membership Services Centre, AMO (Pages 73-82)

Petra Wolfbeiss provided an update on planning for the 2026 ROMA Conference, noting that:

- registration had reached approximately 1,250 delegates
- The trade show was sold out with a waitlist, and sponsorship revenues were tracking to budget.
- Demand for delegation meetings continues to grow, with 897 requests from 250 municipalities, exceeding 2025.
- Programming, including the confirmed two-forum Ministers' Forum format, keynote speakers, mainstage and concurrent sessions, pre-conference workshops, and planned zone meetings highlighting priority policy and advocacy issues were reviewed.
- The Board was also presented with a recommendation to engage a professional photographer to

support the Board communications objectives and to help profile this important event. The cost is, confirmed to be less than \$6,000.

- Petra also provided an overview of the Zone Meet Up lunches and advised members when to expect materials in preparation for these.

**Motion:** *“That the Board receive as information the 2026 ROMA Conference update.”*

**Moved:** *Tanya Vrebosch*

**Seconded:** *Dave Beres*

**Motion:** *“That the ROMA Board approve the cost of a professional photographer for the 2026 conference for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00.”*

**Moved:** *Jamie McGrail*

**Seconded:** *Nicole Martin*

CARRIED

10. Conference review and Zone Meetups– Farah Tayabali, Vice President, and Megan Abraham, Consultant, Redbrick (*Verbal*)

Redbrick provided an overview of communications profiling the conference to date as well as anticipated media engagement at the conference.

The new backdrop is confirmed and a selfie set up will be in place as well.

**Motion:** *“That the Board receive the Conference review and Zone Meetups materials, briefing, and direct Redbrick to finalize the Zone Meet-up decks reflecting feedback received.”*

**Moved:** *Steve McCabe*

**Seconded:** *Tanya Vrebosch*

CARRIED

## TIMED ITEMS

11. 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Update on OMERS-Lindsay Jones, Executive Director, AMO/ Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh (*Verbal*)

Lindsay Jones briefed the Board on the changes to OMERS Governance including current advocacy efforts underway. The Board was advised that this will be a discussion point at the conference Zone Meet-Ups and that the Board will receive speaking notes and will have an opportunity to walk through this prior to the meet ups.

Lindsay also advised that given the complicated nature of the changes and the issue, a mainstage discussion will take place on the opening day of the conference to build understanding both on what is underway and what the implication to municipalities are.

**Motion:** “That the ROMA Board receive the update on OMERS, and support AMO’s actions and advocacy to raise awareness and understanding with municipal leaders.”

**Moved: Steve McCabe**

**Seconded: Natasha Salonen**

CARRIED

12. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Discussion with Minister Rob Flack and Minister Lisa Thompson

Minister Flack and Minister Thompson participated in a discussion with the ROMA Board focused on shared provincial–municipal priorities. Minister Flack emphasized the province’s partnership with rural municipalities, noting a focus on cost awareness, efficiency, and responding to population growth pressures. He highlighted the ongoing importance of capital funding to support infrastructure and health care access in rural communities, as well as provincial investments to support municipal infrastructure growth. The discussion also touched on housing and infrastructure financing tools and the development of a revised Building Faster Fund in consultation with municipal partners.

Minister Thompson acknowledges the importance of rural schools as foundational community assets and emphasized their role as community hubs.

13. 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Mesa Program – Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services and Chief Paramedic, County of Renfrew (*To be delivered*)

Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services and Chief Paramedic for the County of Renfrew, presented to the ROMA Board on the Mesa program, a collaborative, community-based model addressing mental health, addictions, homelessness, and complex social needs through integrated paramedic, health, housing, and social service supports. Mr. Nolan highlighted early outcomes, including reduced emergency department use, improved care coordination, enhanced housing stability, and cost avoidance, as well as the potential to scale the program provincially with stable funding.

AMO staff suggested providing a booth to MESA for the ROMA Conference to promote the model.

**Motion:** “That the ROMA Board receive the presentation; and That the Board direct staff to engage with Chief Nolan.”

**Moved: Nathan Townend**

**Seconded: Steve McCabe**

CARRIED

## INFORMATION ITEMS

14. Resolutions

*Check in whether members would like any of the items pulled for discussion.*

a. 2 + 1 Highway Development

- i. Blind River\_Resolution 25-292 (*Pages 83-85*)
- ii. Conmee Township Supporting NOMA's 2 +1 Highway Proposal (*Pages 86-87*)
- iii. County of Renfrew - Support 2+1-Hwy17-11 (*Pages 88-90*)
- iv. Greater Madawaska\_Resol #196-25 Nation-Building 2+1 Highway Program (*Pages 91*)
- v. McNab Braeside - Support Resolution - Highway 17 Twinning (*Pages 92*)
- vi. Shuniah Resolution - 359-25 (2+1 Highways 11 & 17 Project) (*Pages 93-94*)
- vii. Town of Arnprior - Resolution of Support No. 358-25 (*Pages 95-97*)
- viii. Town of Cobalt Supports FONOM National-Building Improvements to Hwy 11,17 (*Pages 97-98*)
- ix. Town of Kapuskasing Resolution Motion to Improve safety and connectivity through 2+1 highway development in Northern Ontario (*Pages 99-100*)
- x. Town of Laurentian Hills - COR 2 1 Hwy program (*Pages 101-102*)
- xi. Town of Laurentian Hills re- safety risks on HWY 17 (*Pages 103-104*)
- xii. Township of Alberton - Resolution 2025-196 (*Pages 105*)
- xiii. TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY - Resolution - Support 2+1-Hwy17 (*Pages 106-107*)
- xiv. Township of Emo - Res 14 - 2+1 Highway Development in Northern Ontario (*Pages 108-109*)
- xv. Township of Horton Resolution 2025-154 Highway 17 Twinning (*Pages 110-113*)
- xvi. Township of Manitouwadge - Resolution 2025-296 2+1 Highway (*Pages 114-115*)
- xvii. Township of O'Connor - Northern Ontario Highway Network Nov 2025 (*Pages 116-118*)

b. ASE

- i. City of Temiskaming Shores\_2025-400 - Resolution - Safety Cameras (*Pages 119-120*)
- ii. County of Renfrew - Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution (*Pages 121-122*)

c. Conservation Authority Consolidation

- i. Augusta Township Resolution re Conservation Authorities (*Pages 123-125*)
- ii. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority - ERO 025-1257 (*Pages 126-132*)
- iii. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority \_Letter\_Resolution\_80-25\_26Nov2025 (*Pages 133-138*)
- iv. Greater Napanee - Support for Opposition to Consolidation of CA (*Pages 139*)
- v. Motion - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) (*Pages 140-141*)
- vi. Municipality of North Grenville \_Resolution of Support- Local Governance of Conservation Authorities (*Pages 142-143*)
- vii. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority\_Res FA-131-2025 Correspondence (*Pages 144-159*)
- viii. SDG Counties Resolution - Conservation Authorities (*Pages 160-161*)
- ix. The Nation Municipality RES-CM-227-2025 (*Pages 162-164*)
- x. Town of Ingersoll - Conservation Authority Consolidation (*Pages 165-168*)
- xi. Township of Dawn-Euphemia\_Support for SCRCA (*Pages 169-170*)
- xii. Township of Southwold - MECP - CA Consolidation (*Pages 171-173*)

d. Extension of Certification Deadlines

- i. Blind River\_ Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343-22 (*Pages 174-175*)
- ii. Municipality of Killarney - LTR of Support (*Pages 176-179*)
- iii. Town of Cobalt Support for the Township of Larder Lake - Request for Extension of Certification

Deadlines (*Pages 180*)

- iv. Township of Casey - Extend Deadline for the Fire Certification under O.Reg 34322 (*Pages 181-185*)
- v. Township of Chamberlain - firefighter certifications 2025 (*Pages 186-187*)
- vi. Township of Harley - Extend Deadline for the Fire Certification under O.Reg 34322 (*Pages 188-192*)
- vii. Township of Hornepayne Resolution of Support - Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (*Pages 193*)
- viii. Township of Hudson - Extend Deadline for the Fire Certification under O.Reg 34322 (*Pages 194-198*)
- ix. Township of Kerns - Extend Deadline for the Fire Certification under O.Reg 34322 (*Pages 199-203*)

e. NORDS Program

- i. Municipality of McDougall - NORDS LTR of Support (*Pages 205-206*)
- ii. Town of Englehart - Res 2025-228 NORDS Pilot Program (*Pages 207-208*)
- iii. Town of Kapuskasing - Resolution - October 20 2025 - Motion NORDS (*Pages 209-210*)
- iv. Town of Moosonee Resolution No. 209-2025 (*Pages 211*)
- v. Township of Addington Highlands, Letter of Support – City of North Bay RE-Support for Making NORDS Pilot Program Permanent and Expanding Program Eligibility (*Pages 212*)
- vi. Township of Alberton - Resolution 2025-176 (*Pages 213*)
- vii. Township of Chisholm Resolution Support Re - NORDS Pilot Program (*Pages 214-215*)
- viii. Township of The Archipelago - Request to Province to make NORDS program permanent (*Pages 216-217*)

f. OCIF

- i. TOWNSHIP OF BONNECHERE VALLEY - Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) (*Pages 218-219*)
- ii. Township of Puslinch Council Resolution 2025-382 regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (*Pages 220-227*)

g. Unleashing Our Economy Act 2025

- i. Huron East - Opposition to the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 (*Pages 228*)
- ii. Town of East Gwillimbury Resolution Regarding EG's Opposition to the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 (*Pages 229-231*)
- iii. Town of Goderich - Letter of Support to East Gwillimbury (*Pages 232-233*)
- iv. Township of Stone Mills -Support of Town of East Gwillimbury opposition to the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 (*Pages 234*)

h. OTHER

- i. EOWC Resolution 2025-04 - EOWC Support for NGEF Phase 3 and Local Development Targets - December 8, 2025 (*Pages 235-236*)
- ii. Huron East - Advocacy for Funds to Effectively Manage the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation (*Pages 237*)
- iii. Municipality of Grey Highlands - Council Resolution 2025-625 - Ontario Foodbelt (*Pages 238-*

239)

- iv. Municipality of Meaford - Ministry of the Attorney General (POA) (Pages 240-242)
- v. ST CHARLES - Res 2025-214 - Natural Gas Expansion (Pages 243-244)
- vi. Town of Grand Valley Resolution 2025-11-11 Request Temporary Reduction of DCs (Pages 245)
- vii. Town of Prescott - Food Insecurity Resolution (Pages 246-247)
- viii. Township of Brock - Protection of Rural Canada Post Services (Pages 248-249)
- ix. Township of Puslinch Council Resolution 2025-380 Insurance Challenges for Buildings Designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (Pages 250-252)
- x. Township of Zorra - 25-054 Minister of Education - ROMA - Closure of Rural Schools (Pages 253-255)
- xi. Township-of-Tiny-Resolution-re-TC-Energy-Pumped-Storage (Pages 256)

**Motion:** *“That the Board receive the resolutions as information.”*

**Moved: Dane Nielsen**

**Seconded: Nathan Townend**

CARRIED

## 15. Correspondence

*Check in whether members would like any of the items pulled for discussion.*

- a. 234-2025-5568 Bill 60 Thank You Letter from Min. Flack (Pages 257)
- b. EOWC Letter - EOWC Concerns Regarding 2025 Blue Box Regulation Amendments and PRO Decisions - December 4, 2025 (Pages 258-260)
- c. EOWC Letter - Federal Partnership for Eastern Ontario Ports - October 15, 2025 (Pages 261-269)
- d. Invitation NOMA 2026 - ROMA Chair Lowry (Pages 270)
- e. Letter from the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (Pages 271-272)
- f. Letter from the Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons (Pages 273-274)
- g. LTR MOI to Warden Bonnie Clark (Pages 275-277)

**Motion:** *“That the Board receive the correspondence materials.”*

**Moved: Dave Beres**

**Seconded: Mark Wilson**

CARRIED

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 16. Other business brought forward by members

### 17. Agenda items for future ROMA Board meetings

- Update on Teeny Tiny Summits
- Steve's item

- Licensing for municipal lotteries

## **ADJOURNMENT**

18. Next meeting:

- Saturday, January 17, 2026 – ROMA Board Conference Orientation
- Thursday February 12, 2026 – Committee of the Whole: 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Friday February 13, 2026 – Board Meeting: 8:30am-1:30pm

19. Adjournment

***Motion:*** “*That there being no further business, the Board move to adjourn.*”

***Moved:*** *Tanya Vrebosch*

***Seconded:*** *Mark Wilson*

**CARRIED**