
Recent FONOM Policy work

From FONOM Office/ Bureau de FONOM <fonom.info@gmail.com>

Date Thu 2025-07-10 10:55 AM

Cc Nathalie Vachon <nvachon@townsrf.ca>; Englehart Town of <admin@englehart.ca>; Jennifer Montreuil <Jennifer.Montreuil@tkl.ca>; Chantal Guillemette <Chantal.Guillemette@kapuskasing.ca>; The Archipelago Township of <mmartin@thearchipelago.on.ca>; Val Rita-Harty Township of <clerk@valharty.ca>; Smooth Rock Falls Town of <Nathalie.Vachon@townsrf.ca>; Cobalt Town of <cobalt@cobalt.ca>; Parry Sound Municipal Association <Beth.Morton@townshipofperry.ca>; Wendy Schroeder <deputy.clerk@whitestone.ca>; Moosonee Town of <info@moosonee.ca>; Machar Township of <alonymachar@vianet.ca>; Burk's Falls Village of <clerk@burksfalls.ca>; Wawa Municipality of <moneill@wawa.cc>; Tammy Godden <clerk@stcharlesontario.ca>; Chamberlain Township of <info@chamberlaintownship.com>; Jocelyn Township <admin@jocelyn.ca>; Maureen Reeder <mreeder@iroquoisfalls.com>; Billings Township of <tbeckerton@billingswp.ca>; Village of Thornloe <thornloe@outlook.com>

 2 attachments (313 KB)

Immediate Action Needed – Softwood Lumber Dispute Threatens Northeastern Ontario's Forest Sector.pdf; Support for Making the NORDS Pilot Program Permanent and Expanding Program Eligibility.pdf;

Good morning

Please share with your Council and Senior Staff.

FONOM recently sent a letter to the Prime Minister and Premier regarding the tariff impact on the Softwood Lumber Industry in Ontario, and we drafted a Resolution for Municipalities to consider regarding the successful NORDS Pilot Project. Both are included for your review.

Happy to answer any questions

Talk soon, Mac.



THE **FONOM** BOARD INVITE YOU TO THE

NORTHERN HOSPITALITY SUITE

Thank you to our partners



7 - 10 PM | MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

**BONAVENTURE SUITE
SUITE 2318 - WESTIN HOTEL**

Mac Bain
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The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
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June 30, 2025

The Right Honourable Paul Carney

Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

SENT BY EMAIL: PM@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

SENT BY EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford,

On behalf of the **Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)** and the 110 municipalities we represent across Northeastern Ontario, I write to express our deep concern with the recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce, issued on April 4, 2025, which proposes a preliminary combined countervailing and anti-dumping duty rate of **34.45% on Canadian softwood lumber**—more than double the current rate.

This significant escalation in tariffs, expected to take effect in July, poses a direct and immediate threat to the economic well-being of communities across Northeastern Ontario. Our region's forest sector is a foundational pillar of the local economy—supporting thousands of direct and indirect jobs and underpinning many municipal tax bases. Communities such as Timmins, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Temiskaming Shores, and many others have built their resilience and growth around this industry.

Since the expiration of the last Softwood Lumber Agreement in 2016, Canadian producers have faced unfair and punitive duties. These trade actions have now cost the industry **over \$10 billion CAD**, undermining confidence, investment, and the future viability of a sector critical to both our regional and national economies. The increased rate threatens to exacerbate these impacts and further destabilize the forest industry at a time when we can least afford it.

Compounding this issue is the looming potential for additional tariffs on forest products stemming from the U.S. Section 232 national security review, which could deepen the uncertainty and further harm communities throughout Northern Ontario.

We urge both the federal and provincial governments to respond decisively by:

- Making the resolution of the softwood lumber dispute a **top priority** in ongoing bilateral trade discussions with the United States.

- Working directly with forest-sector stakeholders and municipalities to **develop and implement support measures** that protect workers, communities, and local economies.
- **Publicly acknowledge the urgency of this issue for rural and northern Ontario, and commit** to concrete, coordinated actions.

The forest sector in Northern Ontario is vital to our economic survival and to national priorities such as addressing housing needs, advancing clean energy, and promoting sustainable development. However, our region cannot continue to bear the brunt of unfair trade measures without meaningful government action.

FONOM is committed to working alongside all levels of government and our industry partners to protect jobs, investment, and long-term prosperity in our communities.

Sincerely,



Danny Whalen
President

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Support for Making the NORDS Pilot Program Permanent and Expanding Program Eligibility

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

AND WHEREAS the funding provided through the NORDS pilot was very well received by the municipal sector, as it delivered timely and much-needed financial support to many communities across the North;

AND WHEREAS the program has allowed municipalities, such as the City of North Bay, to strategically stack multi-year allocations in order to support large-scale infrastructure initiatives critical to community development and economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the NORDS pilot program has clearly demonstrated its value and effectiveness in helping Northern municipalities address the infrastructure challenges tied to resource development and extraction;

AND WHEREAS rural and northern municipalities are also facing infrastructure degradation resulting from the increasing size and frequency of agricultural machinery and activity, which is currently outside the scope of the pilot;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the [Insert Municipality Name] strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province consider expanding program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities;

AND FURTHER THAT municipalities be encouraged to continue utilizing the ability to stack NORDS allocations over multiple years to support the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources, local MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their awareness and support.

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