

Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Interim Liaison Committee Meeting – Minutes

November 13, 2025, hosted at the Nipigon Royal Canadian Legion

French translation available upon request.

Traduction en français disponible sur demande.

Attendees

Parks Canada:

- Lisa Nyman – Acting Field Unit Superintendent
- Manon Cuthbertson – Acting Site Manager
- Liam Giffin – Acting Visitor Experience Manager
- Michael Gemmell – Resource Conservation Manager
- Christine Gemmell – Finance and Administrative Officer

Community Partners:

- Paul Moralee - Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior
- Dan McGrath - Township of Schreiber
- Rob Stewart - Village of Rossport
- Philip Townsend - Village of Rossport
- Rene St. Jacques - Thunder Bay Yacht Club
- Matt Borutski - Casque Isles and Voyageur Trail Association
- Bill Webb - Township of Terrace Bay
- Dan Bevilacqua - Superior Country
- Suzanne Kukko - Township of Nipigon
- Lisa Hupka - Silver Islet Campers' Association
- Andrew EHM - Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior
- Chris Eby - Township of Red Rock
- Mark Figliomeni - Township of Red Rock
- Robert Beatty - Township of Dorion
- Keith Wade - Thunder Bay Field Naturalists
- Jamie Spadoni - Township of Schreiber

The Facilitator called the meeting to order at 6:42 (**Paul Moralee**)

Land Acknowledgement done by Manon Cuthbertson

Meeting Minutes from June 2024

One Amendment – 4,000 hectares not acres

Site Manager Update – Manon Cuthbertson manon.cuthbertson@pc.gc.ca

See Appendix 1 - "Site Management"

Q Dan Bevilacqua: With Canada Strong did Puk have an increase in site visitors?

A Manon: Not sure about the exact numbers as they relate to Canada Strong. Camping was down in July as it was rainy, and overall numbers were lower and more in-line with pre-Covid.

Visitor Experience Update – Liam Giffin liam.giffin@pc.gc.ca

See Appendix 2- "Visitor Experience"

Comment Michael Gemmell: Clarified the otter footage at Hurkett Cove was taken during monitoring work with Lakehead Regional Conservation Authority and Red Rock Indian Band, that is part of a grant to remove Narrow-leaf and hybrid cattails given as part of our Grant and Contributions Agreement Program.

Q Dan Bevilacqua: Clarification about the number of people who stop in on the circle tour, that was what brought them in?

A Liam Giffin: Yes, the numbers are for those who were there for the circle tour.

Q Dan Bevilacqua: Do you have a questionnaire?

A Liam Giffin: No, there are limitations, but we try to gather information casually through conversation.

Q Chris Eby: How can you boost the message of conservation and things beyond the cute otter?

A Liam Giffin: Anyone can share our social media and boast our presence. Further efforts would be to reach out and interact with people with more direct media, and organizations. Get in touch, we can have a chat.

C Dan Bevilacqua: Offering up Superior Country social media outreach, to post instead of sharing so we can work of together with the algorithms.

C Liam Giffin: Offering to reach out and access some of the media and images in the library.

Resource Conservation Update – Michael Gemmell michael.gemmell@pc.gc.ca

See Appendix 3- "Resource Conservation"

C Michael Gemmell: Focus for today's presentation was our Ecological Sustainability Monitoring Program, next ILC the focus for this presentation will be Cultural Resource Management

Q Paul Moralee: Are you seeing a recovery of Trout populations?

A Michael Gemmell: This is why we are studying them, I can't speak for MNR, but we are hoping this evidence of groups of 30 fish that we are seeing that it is a good sign for the population. But we can't say we have proof.

Q Paul Moralee: Micro-plastics, and the railway spill, are we still seeing a lot of evidence of that spill still or do they deteriorate?

A Michael Gemmell: Couple answers:

- Great Lakes research shows we have less micro-plastics than other great lakes.
- One theory is that plastics from the spill have washed ashore and left the water becoming trapped in sediment and beaches. Other evidence is that wind and waves wear them down to

microplastics, and then nano-plastics. While not good in the environment, the hope is that they are not available in the water column, that they have become trapped in sediment. They are in LS NMCA, and we are hoping for a Lake-wide protocol for the monitoring of this and once one is available, we will evaluate if we can adopt this.

C Chris Eby: Kudos for the collaborations of your programs and getting these shots and images.

Round Table – 2 Mins Each (8:00)

Chris Eby

- Thanks for being welcoming.
- Small communities, ppl power is less than you'd like, but here it's the Northern Community of 'we did this' and coming together. Doing it together, it is actually possible.

Robert Beatty

- Collaboration with Parks Canada is exceptional, always great working together and the Dorion Birding Festival.
- If we can bring the wild rice back that would be excellent

Mark Figliomeni

- Highlighting the partnership and collaboration
- A great relationship, and happy to be part of the site selection committee

Lisa Hupka

- Silver Islet has become trendy and cool, and working together in honoring that history and stepping forward with Parks Canada.
- The collaboration with the [voyager] canoe was a great success.

Dan Bevilacqua

- Two weeks from now is the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit, and Superior country will be holding their Annual General meeting. Attend if you can or read up on the annual report that will be delivered. Always available to talk.
- Use us for our input for marketing and advertising, wealth of knowledge, we are here to help.

Susane Kukko

- Looking forward to the site selection for the visitor center, little upsetting the site could not be where it was. Looking forward to the decision being made.
- Self Serve Kiosks, one of them are set up now at the municipal office, and one will be at the look out. Could see brook trout on the screens [referring to previous footage shared].
- Thank you for the museum updates and funding there to also get an intern.
- Marina Plan, still waiting on what is next for the marina

- Trail upgrades completed, 1.5km of the Nipigon side upgrades and a nice walk now
- First cruise visitors in 15 years to Nipigon this year

Keith Wade

- Last meeting one of the newest nature reserve acquisitions, added to an existing holding, important for the 17 types of orchids, floating bogs, and crystal caves.
- MTO twining the highway from Kakabeka to Thunder Bay, may cut through William Bog. Will have input on the design of the plan, a concern that it will encroach on William Bog.
- Ontario Nature Site Blog, go to our website and see maps and photos and more.
- Nov 24 regular monthly meeting, Dr. Michael Rennie of Lakehead University is going to present on stressors of great lakes waters.
- Thunder Cape Bird Observatory very quiet this year, no report yet.
- Thank you to Parks Canada for funding to replace aging gear.

Philip Townsend

- Echo the need for collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources
- Old fuel tanks and system is gone, new boat launch is underway and will be ready soon, replacement of the dock quote will be ready soon (thank you to all the funders).
- Next year we hope it's another exciting year with the jewel of a full service marina

Rene St. Jacques

- TBYC is one of the largest bodies of members on Lake Superior with 300 members and years of history and years of involvement in the community
- A part of the club is a cruise together, Senora takes people shy to yachting, 10-15 boats take a 4 hour voyage. Try to change the anchorage year to year, and great for a new sailor. (30th anniversary)
- Excited to work the lighthouse association.

Billy Web

- First time here
- Terrace Bay Pavilion, with the board walk with a number of people, met people from all over (met ppl from Italy) who can't believe how beautiful our area is
- Thank you to Parks Canada team for unpacking all that info and hospitality

Jamie Spadoni

- This year there was record breaking number of people to visitors center, 20% from the circle tour and the cruise ships as well as their 'Thank you' campaign
- Lots going on at Schreiber, with community improvements and events in Schreiber and summer programs next year.

Matt Borutski

- [Casque Isles and Voyageur Trail Association] 50 years old this year, last decade worked closely with Parks Canada

- Had a lot of signage going up on the trailheads, with QR code to become a member and download the maps, [Parks Canada] Red Chairs signage for those not great with locations.
- Signs also helping with marking difficult trails and limit liability
- Rossport island signs will go up
- Through partnership with Schreiber applying for funding for improvements.

Rob Stewart

- Park in Rossport needed some TLC and help was given by Parks Canada, it gets a lot of use.
- nice to have a better understanding of what is happening and what Parks Canada is doing.

Dan McGrath

- Ability to work with Parks Canada over the years to put the discovery center in place.
- Would like to get programs going again with Parks Canada.
- Local story of the sinking of the Gunilda, and divers out there from the cruise ships.

Paul Moralee

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.



Thunder Bay District Municipal League

In-person Meeting – Municipality of Shuniah

MacGregor Recreation Centre

Minutes

September 20, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:45

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION

2.1 THAT the agenda for the September 20, 2025 board meeting be approved as amended with the addition under 5.1 regarding the Oliver-Paipoonge's work on the designated truck route.

Resolution #2025-27

Moved by: Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone)
Seconded by: Councillor Crane (O'Connor)

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

MOTION

3.1 THAT The Minutes for the July 12th meeting, held in the Township of O'Connor, be approved as amended with additional housing waitlist stats from DSSAB under 4.1.

Resolution #2025-28

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell (Conmee)
Seconded by: Mayor Moffat (Manitouwadge)

4. Deputation

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Response to City of Thunder Bay's decision for designated truck route

The letter “Urgent Call for Strategic Investment in Highway 11-17 – Thunder Bay District”, prepared and submitted by TBDML, was included for information.

Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone) provided an update of NOMA’s advocacy work at the 2025 AMO Conference regarding highway issues and the Shabaqua realignment information regarding completion of the Harbour Expressway.

Councillor Crane (O’Connor) questioned a more timely solution for the designated truck route going through Kakabeka such as signage upon approach.

Discussion ensued regarding a number concerns about the safety of the current highway situation as well as the plans for the designated truck route through Kakabeka.

Councillor Crane (O’Connor) shared that he has been added as a member on Oliver-Paipoonge’s designated truck route working group. Councillor’s Calvert (Oliver-Paipoonge) and Crane (O’Connor) and will report back with updates

Jason Veltri, Executive Coordinator entered the meeting and was introduced at 1:07pm. Further updates from NOMA’s advocacy, focused on finishing the plans for Highway 11/17 and an emphasis on “Nation Building Projects” was provided to the group. Mr. Veltri will provide NOMA’s AMO delegation package to be circulated to the group.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Balances as at August 31, 2025:

CIBC Account – \$27,160.45
ONE HISA – \$15,831.64

7. Ongoing Business

7.1 2026 Conference

7.1a –

Chantelle Bryson topics were discussed and two options were chosen: Abuse of Staff and Council & Effective and Responsible Use of AI in Municipal Corporations

7.1b –

NPI topics to were discussed and two options were chosen: Transportation and Immigration

7.1 c –

The new event portal “PheedLoop” was discussed. Mr. Veltri (NOMA) provided a breakdown of the options for this online ticketing merchant as he was the one who initially met with the company to discuss options. Benefits of the portal include:

- Credits roll over year to year
- It is less expensive to operate than Eventbrite (\$950 per account with a “per ticket” fee that follows)
- More than one organization can share the same account

Mr. Veltri will follow-up with Pheedloop regarding TBDML’s nonprofit status and whether this may impact ease of use with the Stripe merchant that we will need to register with.

The Executive Director was instructed to explore TBDML opening their own account.

MOTION

THAT The Executive Director meet with Pheedloop to explore acquiring our own account and that the costs described are approved to be spent should we move forward.

Resolution #2025-29

Moved by: Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone)
Seconded by: Councillor Crane (O'Connor)

Carried.

7.1d Additional Comments

The present committee members provided an update that the tradeshow and conference location in Nipigon for 2025 will likely be changing. The committee will meet again at the end of October.

7.2 Strategic Plan Tracker

The reviewed the “Highways” section of the Strategic Plan.

- Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone) shared successes from their Main Street project
- Mayor Malashewski (Terrace Bay) shared that their rest stop will be opening this fall
- Work with NOMA on advocacy for opening highways faster after long closures
- Mayor Moffat (Manitouwadge) discussed the Mayors Group consisting of Manitouwadge to Chapleau and suggested that the Executive Director connect with the Mayor of Wawa
- The Executive Director was instructed to create by-law templates for a number of the Highway action items outlined in the plan and circulate them to the municipalities for editing and adoption
- Discussed the need for Officers to staff the scales, let alone open new scales. It was noted that there is currently a hiring push underway
- There is work currently being done to straighten the highway between Terrace Bay and Manitouwadge
- The Executive Director was directed to look into what is needed to acquire 511 signs
- It was shared that NOMA & FONOM will be working together for a 2+1 North Bay pilot project in the spring (stay tuned for updates)
- Councillor Swarek (White River) shared that they have completed a number of action items from the plan but that the action has not yet been sent to the Executive Director. ED will follow-up

8 New Business

8.1 A thank you note from previous board member, Councillor Johnson (Terrace Bay) was shared and a newly elected Councillor (William Webb) was introduced to the group.

9 Upcoming Business

9.1 NOMA Conference 2026

The NOMA Conference will be held April 22-24 at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre in Thunder Bay. The board approves the Executive Director's attendance at the conference.

Mr. Veltri (NOMA) provided updates on the 2026 conference including an increased number of tradeshow booths, ticket prices, host status, theme and delegations. Mr. Veltri noted that the host municipalities (each of the District League's and the City of Thunder Bay, on rotation) will be more involved in planning the events moving forward.

10 Resolutions

11 Correspondence/Articles of Interest

- 11.1 [Province Making Historic Investment to Build Communities to Protect Ont.](#)
- 11.2 [NOMA Calling on Fed., Prov. Governments to Invest in Highway 11/17](#)
- 11.3 [Ontario Investing \\$6.2 Million to Protect Forest Sector Jobs and Workers](#)
- 11.4 [Lithium explorer feels the squeeze of sluggish metals market](#)
- 11.5 [Clean Air Metals announces appointment of John Mason as director](#)
- 11.6 [Frontier Lithium launches study of Thunder Bay refinery feasibility](#)
- 11.7 [Ontario is set to begin building road to the Ring of Fire](#)
- 11.8 [Lecce promotes speedy ‘one project, one process’ for new mines](#)
- 11.9 [Prime Minister Carney launches new Major Projects Office](#)
- 11.10 [Natural Gas Generator proposal for Thunder Bay](#)
- 11.11a NOMA Support for NGEP Phase 3 & Enabling Local Housing & Emp.
- 11.11b NOMA Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion
- 11.12 Iain Angus – Quest Feedback Request
- 11.13 NOMA Stands with FONOM, Calls on Gov’ts to make Trans Canada
- 11.14 [Why Doug Ford’s controversial law to fast-track development...Ring of Fire](#)
- 11.15 TBDML’s Pre-Budget Submission to Minister Hajdu

12 Committee Reports

Conference Committee - discussed under ongoing business

NOMA Update – discussed under upcoming business

Finance Committee has not met since last board meeting. A Draft budget will be prepared prior to the next meeting in consultation with the Finance Committee.

EMS Working Group have not met since the Conference. Mayor Malashewski (Terrace Bay) inquired about the next meeting. Councillor Pietsch – Chair (Greenstone) shared the benefits of having Chief Muir for delegations at our 2025 Conference and the resulting reports upon request that can now be provided. Councillor Pietsch will discuss further with Mayor Malashewski. At this time, no further action is planned for the group.

13 Discussion/Good Stories:

Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone) shared good news about their Main Street Revitalization Project. He reiterated the importance of Indigenous Partnerships when pursuing a plan such as this. He shared further that Ministers sat on the same side as NOMA during delegations at AMO regarding highway advocacy.

Councillor Calvert (Oliver-Paipoonge) shared that there are plans for a new vet clinic in Oliver-Paipoonge.

Mayor Moffat (Manitouwadge) shared “bad news” regarding the province wide snowmobile trail reduction due to rising costs and lack of revenue. The Executive Director was directed to follow-up with a representative and provide support via advocacy document.

14 Adjournment:

MOTION

THAT the meeting held on Saturday September 20th was adjourned at 2:27PM

Resolution #2025-30

Moved by: Councillor Crane (O'Connor)

Seconded by: Councillor Pietsch (Greenstone)

15 Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held **VIRTUALLY**

Wednesday November 19th, 2025 at 5:30PM

Meeting materials to be provided within a week of the meeting date



Thunder Bay District Municipal League

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

November 19, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38PM

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION

2.1 THAT the agenda for the November 19, 2025 board meeting be approved as amended with corrections to the names of our delegation presenters, addition to resolutions with three resolutions from Oliver-Paipoonge, and addition to correspondence from NOMA.

Resolution #2025-31

Moved by: Reeve Beatty (Dorion)

Seconded by: Mayor Moffat (Manitouwadge)

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

MOTION

3.1 THAT The Minutes for the September 20th meeting, held in the Municipality of Shuniah, be approved.

Resolution #2025-32

Moved by: Councillor Kistemaker (Hornepayne)

Seconded by: Councillor McGrath (Schreiber)

4. Deputation

4.1 Megan McDonald – CloudRep AI

An information one-pager was circulated to the group prior to the deputation.

CloudRep uses AI to handle inbound calls, answer questions, handle after-hours calls in all languages, and route people instantly — without long waits or dropped connections. Other municipalities in Ontario are already using it to cut costs and improve response times, and it's built in Canada.

It takes approximately one week to set up an account and then 2-4 weeks to load municipally relevant data. Plans are \$30-\$500 per month depending on services provided. A pricing guideline will be circulated after the meeting.

A question was asked regarding the AI's ability to pick up emotion. For example, if a user was becoming frustrated, would it automatically forward the inquiry to a real human. The answer was that it could and that this would be part of the built in options.

4.2 Nicholas Stubbs – Dependable Emergency Vehicles

A deputation and virtual tour was provided from Dependable Emergency Vehicles – an Ontario manufacturer of emergency vehicles.

Dependable sells new, used and refurbished trucks and will also accept trade ins.

They will also provide cost-comparison support when comparing other providers and their rates remain most competitive. They have a network of buyers and sellers and will help get people connected.

They can travel to our District in order to do annual pump testing but cannot provide safeties for the Service Ontario “yellow sticker” requirements.

4.3 Manuela Batovanja

Provided a deputation on a “Small Northern Ontario New Resident Property Tax Class”. It was discussed that this may be a good option for multi-residential properties or lower income properties for seniors. The idea is that the lower tax rate would encourage growth to the area. More new homes = more new revenue.

Additional information including a report to council and letter of support template was provided from Manuela and circulated to the group.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Update from Oliver-Paipoonge's DTR Working Group

Councillor Crane (O'Connor) reported that he has only attended one meeting for this group and was able to meet with a Liberal representative to discuss concerns. Councillor Crane shared that accidents have happened and there is fear that they are going to continue.

5.2 Conference Presentation Policy

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee has requested the creation of a new Policy regarding limitations on the number of consecutive conferences that a speaker can present at. The policy will be drafted and brought back to a future meeting. Currently, we have been able to find presenters with little issue. Part of the policy could state that we would accept repeat presenters if we were unable to fill any spots.

5.3 2026 Tradeshow

It has been decided that there will be no Tradeshow at the 2026 Conference in Nipigon as the spaces available would not be suitable for our overall needs.

5.4 MTO Contact for 2026 Conference

The Executive Director still has not been able to connect with the appropriate contact for the MTO for our Region. Will keep trying.

5.5 Pheedloop Update

We will not be moving forward with Pheedloop as the TBDML will not pass the Stripe verification as we are an unincorporated non-profit without a physical business address. Registrations for this years conference will be accepted by cheque.

5.6 Highway Advocacy By-laws

By-law templates were provided from NOMA for municipalities to utilize in their advocacy efforts.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Balances as at October 31, 2025:

CIBC Account – \$10,388.07
ONE HISA – \$28,925.97

Balances were accepted without comment.

6.2 DRAFT 2026 Budget

The Draft 2026 Budget was reviewed without comment or requested amendments. The second Draft will be brought forward to the board meeting in January.

6.3 Offer from Patty Hajdu for TBDML to comment on 2025 Federal Budget

The Executive Director was directed not to provide comment on the 2025 Federal Budget.

7. Ongoing Business

7.1 Strategic Plan Tracker – Addressing Homelessness & Housing Vulnerability

The following actions were provided from the Township of Schreiber and will be added to the Tracker:

Action 1 - J We have reached out to Tbay tel and others for fibre internet service, this is still ongoing

Action 2 - C Schreiber supports our local food bank with some funding

Action 3 - B We have reached out to upper levels of government for infrastructure funding

Action 4-E We provide yearly recruitment funding for our local local Family Health Team

No further actions were logged at this time. White River will follow-up with their staff to ensure their actions are forwarded to the Executive Director.

8. New Business

8.1 TBDML Executive Director Job Posting

To date there have been no applications for the position. The posting will be re-circulated. The current Executive Director can stay on until the end of March if required.

8.2 Notice from Admin Rep Mark Figliomeni (CAO, Red Rock)

Resignation was provided by Admin Rep. Mark Figliomeni, although he was unable to attend the meeting.

The Admin Rep posting will be circulated to all member municipalities.

8.3 2026 Meeting Schedule

The following meetings were set for 2026.

1. Wednesday January 21 @ 5:30PM VIRTUAL
2. Wednesday March 4 @ 6:30PM IN-PERSON – Nipigon Legion

Municipalities that have expressed interest in hosting a meeting in 2026 include Conmee, Gillies, and COTB.

9. Upcoming Business

9.1 IESO Northwest Regional Engagement link was provided to the group.

10. Resolutions

Three resolutions were provided from Oliver-Paipoonge, however, they were unable to be thoroughly reviewed by the group as they were received right before the meeting and the meeting lost quorum when we reached this item. It was requested that the following three resolutions regarding the following matters be brought to the next meeting for review:

1. Mandatory Water Safety and Swim to Survive Training
2. Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)
3. Phased Implementation of Highways 11 & 17

11. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

The following Correspondence/Articles of Interest were provided:

- 11.1 Letter to NOMA from Minister of Environment, Cons & Parks re: PROs blue box
- 11.2 Bak Emergency Management Service Package
- 11.3 [Natural gas plant gets thumbs up from committee](#)
- 11.4 [Another developer looks to Shuniah for a potential energy project](#)
- 11.5 [Some Shuniah residents lash out against planned batter energy storage system](#)
- 11.6 [Energy storage facility would require municipal support](#)
- 11.7 [AMO's Healthy Democracy Project](#)
- 11.8 [Bill 40, Protect Ontario by Securing Affordable Energy for Generations Act, 2025](#)
- 11.9 [Northwestern Ontario forestry, energy interests advance regional priorities](#)
- 11.10 [Northern Policy Institute – Magnetic North Conference](#)
- 11.11 [Ontario Implements “One Project, One Process” to Build Mines Faster](#)
- 11.12 TBDML Letter to OFSC re: Trail Reduction
- 11.13 Wendy Landry Appointed to IESO Board of Directors
- 11.14 NOMA Board Meeting Minutes – June 18 2025
- 11.15 [New electricity plan under development for Northwestern Ontario](#)
- 11.16 [Ontario Geological Survey Virtual Showcase Nov 25-27](#)
- 11.17 Staffing Announcement – Bak Emergency Management
- 11.18 [Proposed wood waste-to-energy facility is licensed by province](#)
- 11.19 Margaret Sideen Endowment Report Notice
- 11.20 [Ontario Launches Feasibility Study to Build East-West Pipeline and Energy Corr](#)
- 11.21 [Ontario and Webequie First Nation Sign Historic Agreement to Unlock the Ring of](#)
- 11.22 [Ontario Fast-Tracks First Project Under New “One Project, One Process”](#)

Additional NOMA notices available upon request

- NOMA Applauds Ontario’s Investment to protect forestry jobs at Kap Paper
- NOMA Welcomes Historic Investment in Kenora’s Health-Care Infrastructure
- NOMA & FONOM welcome federal support for Kap Paper, urge all governments
- NOMA Welcomes Ontario’s “One Project, One Process” Framework to Accelerate
- NOMA Welcomes Ontario’s Move to Lower Costs for First-Time Home Buyers
- Statement from NOMA on the Federal Budget 2025

- NOMA Welcomes Ontario's Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review as a Commit..
- NOMA Welcomes Ontario's Pothole Prevention and Repair Program as a Win for
- NOMA Welcomes Ontario's "One Project, One Process" Announcement – A boost

12. Committee Reports

Conference Committee

Discussed under Section 5

NOMA Update:

A brief update regarding NOMA's current activities and upcoming Conference was provided.

Finance Committee

Discussed under Section 6

EMS Working Group

Mayor Kukko (Nipigon) will reach out to Red Rock, Schreiber, and Terrace Bay to attempt to coordinate a meeting with members of Thunder Bay at ROMA. Mayor Kukko will reach out to Councillor Pietsch (Chair of the EMS Working Group) to inform of same.

13. Discussion/Good Stories:

No "Good Stories" were shared at this meeting

14. Adjournment:

MOTION

THAT the meeting held on Wednesday November 19th be adjourned at 7:00PM

Resolution #2025-33

Moved by: Councillor Crane (O'Connor)

Seconded by: Councillor McGrath (Schreiber)

15. Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held **VIRTUALLY**

January 21st, 2026 at 5:30

Meeting materials to be provided within a week of the meeting date

COUNCIL REPORT

Subject: Public Works Superintendent Report
Date: January 27, 2026
Report Number: 26-01-27-02
From: Taylor Haskell, PWS



Recommendation:

That Council receive the Public Works Superintendent Report #26-01-27-02 for information and;

- That Council receive, acknowledge and re-endorse the Drinking Water Quality Management System Operational Plan Revision 13;

1 – Drinking Water Quality Management System – Operational Plan Revision 13

- Council is advised that Revision 13 of the Township's Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) Operational Plan has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard.
- This revision incorporates updates to reflect current operational practices, organizational roles and responsibilities, and continuous improvement measures identified through internal/external reviews and audits as well as the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks inspection. No changes have been made that would negatively impact the safety or regulatory compliance of the municipal drinking water system.
- As required under the DWQMS, the Owner and Operating Authorities commitment and endorsement are required for each revision of the Operational Plan. The re-endorsement of Revision 13 confirms its ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable drinking water and to maintaining an effective quality management system that meets all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

Submitted By:

Taylor Haskell (PWS)

Reviewed by:

Timothy Cobban (CAO)

Nipigon Fire Department

Attendance:

Meeting Date: JAN 21st, 2026

Fire Chief Ryan Petre	FF Matthew Blackman	FF Mike Blair
Deputy Chief Alex Pleson	FF Bill Cronmiller	FF Terri Dumont
Captain Gordie Walters	FF Cory Squire	FF Greg Latham
Captain Alan Koistinen	FF Joel Willan	FF Aaron Zuwala
Captain John Maedel	FF Ian Zechner	FF Jonah Roy
Captain Butch Kovacs	FF Colton McLeod	FF Alex Bearman
Captain Loretta Lemon	FF Troy Nicol	FF Dale Roy
FF Gary Thorsteinson	FF Brody Stenlund	Council – Greg Harper
FF Allan Clearwater	FF Jeremy Chalifoux	Secretary - Caroline Sugawara

CALL TO ORDER: 18:50

PREVIOUS MINUTES: John, & Al C

Electrical done in hall. New outlets by bunker gear

Ladder rack on #2 fixed (was electrical issue)

New application – Sterling Lesperance – All in favour

Training – next week ABC Fire will be in for training/testing either here or in Red Rock (Nipigon – Wednesday 7pm.....Red Rock –check with DC for date/time)

Chief has reached out to company to Proctor exam this spring. Attend trainings to make sure your modules are all covered. E-learning modules still not setup.

Colton picking up remaining bunker gear this week.

Chief requested additional smoke detectors from Enbridge. Extra batteries are in Snuffer if needed.

Pumper #4 is finished! Just waiting on pump test.

If you have a newer pager, please bring it back as they need reprogramming.

House fire on Front St went pretty well.

Township has wildfire protection guidelines. John has received it, but not a chance to finish reading it. In 2022/2023 there was an “MNR un-approved” assessment done, this may need to be redone.

Hydrants are all cleared of snow.

Duty Crews – SHOW UP

From Council Rep:

Town starting to save for fire truck.

Mayor just back from out of town mtg. asked FM for extension for training date/deadline

Town has some funds available for reimbursement towards training (\$750 per FF)

Town says “Thank You for your Service”.

HEALTH & SAFETY

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL: accept Sterling Lesperance's FF application.

Meeting adjourned 19:11

COUNCIL REPORT

Subject: Economic Development Report

Date: 26-01-23

Report Number: 26-01-23

From: Brianna Bell, Economic Development Officer



Item #1 NextBridge / Rendezvous XC Ski Club Compensation Package – Release of Remaining Funds (Supporting Documents: Pg 7- 29)

The Township of Nipigon entered into a Ski Trail Area Agreement with NextBridge Infrastructure LP as part of the East-West Tie Transmission Project. Under this agreement, NextBridge provided compensation funding to the Municipality in the amount of **\$53,382.00 (exclusive of HST)** to support the relocation and improvement of the Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club trail system following project impacts. NextBridge ski club agreement.

Construction and relocation work was completed during the fall seasons of 2021 and 2022, and the Ski Club has confirmed that the project is now in its final stage. The remaining work includes the replacement and upgrading of ski trail wayfinding signage, updated mapping, and related trail identification improvements. These final deliverables were paused temporarily while the Ski Club rerouted a portion of the Moose Loop Trail around private land development near Golf Course Road; this reroute has since been completed, allowing the Club to proceed with final project completion.

Based on the Ski Club's updated project budget summary, total expenditures to date are **\$45,876.47**, leaving a remaining balance of **\$7,505.86** available to be applied toward the completion of the remaining project phase.

Releasing the remaining funds will allow the project to be completed as intended under the NextBridge agreement and will further support the Rendezvous trail system as a key recreation and tourism asset for the Township of Nipigon.

Recommendation

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon authorize administration to release the remaining portion of the NextBridge / Rendezvous XC Ski Club Compensation Package, in the amount of \$7,505.86, to the Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club to complete the final phase of the Ski Trail Relocation Project, including trail signage and updated mapping.

Item #2: Community Veterinary Wellness Clinic (Regional Partnership: Nipigon, Schreiber & Red Rock)

The Township of Nipigon has been working collaboratively with regional partners, including the Town of Schreiber and the Township of Red Rock, to assess and respond to growing community demand for accessible veterinary services through a proposed Community Veterinary Wellness Clinic. Expression of Interest data collected across the region confirms strong demand for affordable preventative veterinary care, with an estimated 265 animals projected for participation across the partnering communities.

The proposed clinic model supports a practical and streamlined service offering including physical exams/consultations, core vaccinations (Rabies, DAPPL for dogs, FVRCP for cats), deworming, and dog blood testing for heartworm/tick-borne diseases where applicable, along with additional minor medical services when appropriate.

To support cost recovery while maintaining affordability for residents, the clinic model is based on a client fee of \$90 per pet, with a veterinary provider cost of \$60 per pet, leaving \$30 per pet available for cost recovery toward local operating expenses such as accommodations, meals, airport transportation, and administration.

The veterinary team is expected to arrive on Thursday and depart on Monday (four nights). Estimated operating costs required to deliver the clinic are as follows: lodging at \$3,840.00 (4 nights \times \$160/night \times 6 rooms), airport pickup/drop-off support at \$750.00, and food at \$4,500.00 to provide lunch and dinner daily (community-style meals with vegetarian options, and morning snacks/coffee where applicable). This results in a total estimated operating cost of \$9,090.00.

All financial projections included in this report are estimates only, based on collected EOI data and expected participation. Actual totals may change depending on the final number of confirmed sign-ups and prepayments received prior to clinic scheduling. The following scenarios are provided to demonstrate how participation levels impact cost recovery and potential shortfall:

Minimum participation scenario (150 pets – minimum to run clinic):

Client revenue = **\$13,500.00** | Vet payment = **\$9,000.00** | Cost recovery = **\$4,500.00**

Estimated shortfall: \$4,590.00

Moderate participation scenario (200 pets):

Client revenue = **\$18,000.00** | Vet payment = **\$12,000.00** | Cost recovery = **\$6,000.00**

Estimated shortfall: \$3,090.00

Projected interest scenario (265 pets – based on collected data):

Client revenue = **\$23,850.00** | Vet payment = **\$15,900.00** | Cost recovery = **\$7,950.00**

Estimated shortfall: \$1,140.00

Administration is recommending that any shortfall costs be shared between the participating communities of Nipigon, Schreiber, and Red Rock, recognizing that the clinic is being delivered as a regional service and the benefits and demand extend across municipal boundaries.

In order to proceed with securing flights, accommodations, volunteer scheduling, and full clinic logistics, the project requires:

1. a formal invitation to the veterinary provider to deliver services to the region, and
2. execution of a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming roles, responsibilities, the cost-sharing approach, and scheduling commitments so preparations can move forward without delay.

Recommendation

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon support the proposed Community Veterinary Wellness Clinic initiative and authorize Administration to proceed with the required planning in collaboration with the Town of Schreiber and the Township of Red Rock, including issuing a formal invitation to the selected veterinary provider to deliver services within the region;

AND THAT Council authorize Administration to finalize and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required to secure flights, volunteers, and clinic logistics, including the proposed fee structure of \$90 per pet;

AND THAT Administration be directed to formally approach the Town of Schreiber and the Township of Red Rock for Council consideration and approval of participation and any required cost-sharing arrangements to address potential clinic operating shortfalls.

Report Item #3: MHIP – Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) Funding Approval - Reconstruction of Wastewater Infrastructure (Nipigon Hospital Gravity System via Hogan Road)

This report is to inform Council of the approved funding and to highlight the scope of the wastewater infrastructure project serving the Nipigon Hospital area. The project, titled “Reconstruction of Wastewater Infrastructure – Nipigon Hospital Gravity System via Hogan Road,” will address critical wastewater servicing infrastructure within the Hogan Road corridor and the hospital gravity system. The work will focus on renewing and improving aging wastewater infrastructure to support safe and reliable service, reduce risk of failures, and protect public health and the environment in a sensitive and high-priority area of the community.

The funding model for this project was based on Option #1 – Hogan Road & Through Hospital Parking Lot as identified in the *Nipigon Hospital Sewer Servicing – Feasibility Study* prepared by KGS Group (dated May 24, 2024). This option reflects the servicing route and construction approach intended to rehabilitate the existing gravity system and restore long-term functionality to the wastewater network that supports the hospital and surrounding service area.

The Township has received approval under the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream for a total eligible project value of \$591,725.00, with a provincial contribution of \$431,959.25 (73%) and a Township contribution of \$159,765.75 (27%). These funds will support the Township in moving forward with the next steps required to complete the project and advance construction readiness.

This project is an important investment in local core infrastructure and supports ongoing community health and safety priorities by ensuring continued wastewater system performance in an essential service area.

Recommendation

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon receive this report for information;

AND THAT Council recommend that Administration proceed with entering into the required funding agreement/contractual documentation to allow the project to move forward, including the next steps required to advance design, tendering, and implementation.

Report Item #4: Nipigon Museum Committee Recommendations – Council Direction & Approvals

This report is to inform Council of three recommendations brought forward through the Nipigon Museum Committee meeting minutes, which were reviewed by Council on December 16 as informational. While the items were discussed, no formal resolutions were passed at that time. Administration is bringing the recommendations forward again so Council can provide clear direction and next steps.

The Museum Committee has requested Council support to move forward with a small but meaningful tourism and heritage initiative by preparing and installing an information placard at the lookout highlighting Nipigon's angling legacy, and adding a directional QR code to promote the Museum. The Committee also recommended that the QR code be added to the two existing historical placards to increase awareness and encourage visitor engagement.

Lastly, the Museum Committee recommended that the updated Terms of Reference and the Strategic Plan 2025–2030 be submitted to Council for review and approval, as these documents provide governance direction and long-term planning priorities for the Museum.

Recommendation

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon receive this report for information;

AND THAT Council provide direction to Administration regarding the following Nipigon Museum Committee recommendations:

- 1. Installation of an angling legacy information placard at the lookout and adding a Museum QR code to the lookout placard and two existing historical placards;**
- 2. Review and approval Strategic Plan 2025–2030. (Pg. 28-37); and**
- 3. Review and approval of the Museum Terms of Reference (Pg. 24-27)**

Report Item #4: OPG Grant Approval – Nipigon Annual Community Events 2026

The Township of Nipigon submitted a funding request to OPG to support the events included in the Township's 2026 community events application. The application was written and submitted by Township of Nipigon staff Brianna Bell (Economic Development Officer) and Kristin Clearwater (Culture and Recreation Manager). OPG has confirmed the Township's grant request has been approved and will be providing funding in the amount of \$7,000.00 to the Township of Nipigon.

The approved OPG funding is intended to support delivery of the events identified in the application, with the proposed allocations as follows:

- **25th Annual Blueberry Blast:** \$3,000
- **Nipigon 5K Run/Walk:** \$3,000
- **Winter Carnival / Family Day:** \$1,000

Once the events are complete, the Township will receive an impact survey from OPG. To be considered for future funding, the survey must be completed within 60 days of receipt. This report is presented for notification purposes only.

Recommendation

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon receive this report as information; and further, THAT Council authorize administration to accept the OPG funding in the amount of \$7,000.00 for the approved 2026 events and to complete all associated reporting requirements.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Brianna Bell, Economic Development Officer

Internal/External Consultations :

1. **Dr. Tammy Hornak – Veteranarian - Hamilton/Burlington SPCA**
2. **Chris Leale - Rendezvous XC Ski Club**
3. **Economic Development Committee**
4. **Ashley Davis – C.D.O. – Red Rock, ON**
5. **Jamie Spadoni – E.D.O – Schreiber,**

Reviewed By:

CAO Cobban

SKI AREA AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON,

hereinafter referred to as the "Municipality",

- and -

NEXTBRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE LP

hereinafter referred to as "NextBridge"

WHEREAS NextBridge received approval for the construction of the East-West Tie Transmission Line Project (the "Project") which includes a transmission corridor, access roads and temporary laydown and work areas;

AND WHEREAS the Project affects lands owned by the Municipality for which NextBridge has sought easement agreements from the Municipality (the **"Easements"**) to permit the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project on such lands (the **"Easement Lands"**). The Easement Lands are listed in Schedule 'C' attached hereto;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality permits a portion of the Easement Lands to be utilized for cross-country skiing;

AND WHEREAS the ski trails are identified in green on Schedule 'S' attached hereto (the "Ski Trails");

AND WHEREAS the cross-country skiing facilities are currently provided by the Municipality for use by the Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club (the "Ski Club");

AND WHEREAS the Municipality has agreed to relocate a portion of the Ski Trails to accommodate the Project and in particular to facilitate the construction of Tower B088 thereof;

AND WHEREAS NextBridge has agreed to certain obligations for the Ski Trails to facilitate the continued use of such lands for cross-country skiing;

AND WHEREAS NextBridge is committed to having a strong working relationship with the Municipality and the Municipality is committed to having a strong working relationship with NextBridge;

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the terms and conditions hereinafter specified, the parties agree as follows:

1. To accommodate the continued use of the Ski Trails for cross-county skiing purposes NextBridge has revised the plans for the Project as follows:
 - a. Removal of planned permanent access road originally proposed to be located on a portion of the Ski Trails;
 - b. Removal of planned laydown yard originally proposed to be located on a portion of the Ski Trails;
 - c. Relocation of planned temporary access road proposed to be located on a portion of the Ski Trails to a location south of the existing Hydro One 230 kV transmission line; and
 - d. Revisions to proposed design of the structure span to limit tree clearing requirements and overall visual impact to the Ski Trails as detailed in the Workfront 3 Detailed Project Plan, a copy of which is located at:
<http://www.nextbridge.ca/public-record-documents>.
2. Upon execution hereof, NextBridge shall pay the sum of **\$53,382.00** to the Municipality as compensation for the relocation of the Ski Trails as described herein. Such amount is exclusive of any HST payable on costs of relocation.
3. Intentionally Deleted
4. To ensure safety of workers in the direct area of NextBridge's transmission line, the parties agree that during any periods of active construction of the Project, trail work will not be completed contemporaneously with NextBridge's construction without the consent of NextBridge, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
5. In the event the Municipality (or any licensee or other designee) retains a contractor to perform replacement and/or relocation of the Ski Trails within the Easement Lands, the Municipality shall ensure that the retained contractor abides by the following terms:
 - a. The retained contractor shall make all reasonable efforts to protect NextBridge's infrastructure from damage as a result of the retained contractor's activities;
 - b. The retained contractor shall not use the Easement Lands in a manner which could interfere with the construction, operation, maintenance and/or repair of NextBridge's assets, related fixtures and appurtenances located on the Easement Lands as authorized under the Easements;

- c. Blasting operations are prohibited within the Easement Lands and within fifty metres from the base or any appurtenances of any electricity transmission towers existing or proposed;
 - d. The relocation of the Ski Trails on the Easement Lands shall be in general conformity with Schedules •A" and "B" hereof and the Work Plan dated June 11, 2020 provided by the Municipality to NextBridge. The relocation shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Easements unless otherwise expressly provided herein;
 - e. Performance of work by the retained contractor within the Easement Lands shall be in accordance with all applicable laws including, without limitation, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (Ontario) and the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association's "Electrical Utility Safety Rules";
 - f. Crossing of the Easement Lands other than on public roads or designated crossing locations, by the retained contractor's equipment or vehicles are subject to NextBridge's prior approval acting reasonably and written notice to NextBridge;
 - g. A NextBridge Representative will be notified and entitled to be present during all construction works being carried out by the retained contractor.
6. With respect to any work carried out pursuant to Section 5, the Municipality agrees to indemnify and to save harmless NextBridge from any and all manner of actions, claims, damages, loss, costs, charges or expenses (including without limitation, legal costs on a full indemnity basis) ("**Claims**") arising out of or connected with the actions of the retained contractor (including its servants, agents or subcontractors) on the Easement Lands. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Municipality shall not be required to indemnify NextBridge to the extent such Claims are due to the negligence, wilful misconduct or breach of this Agreement by NextBridge, its servants, agents or contractors.
7. With respect to NextBridge's construction on the Ski Trails, NextBridge covenants and agrees that:
- a. All access roads to be located on the Ski Trails shall be temporary including any associated water crossing Infrastructure (i.e. bridge or culverts);
 - b. Within a reasonable period following completion of construction of the Project, NextBridge shall remove any bridge or culvert installed on the Ski Trails by or on NextBridge's behalf; and
 - c. All access roads shall be used in accordance with the fIXed term Easement Agreements between NextBridge and the Municipality.

8. To address concerns with the impact of the Project upon vegetation on the Ski Trails, NextBridge covenants and agrees as follows:
 - a. All work shall be completed in accordance with the vegetation retention management plan as described in section 2.3 of the Workfront 3 Detailed Project Plan (located at <http://www.nextbridge.ca/public-record-documents>) for the structure span;
 - b. All vegetation retention areas will be flagged in the field prior to clearing activities and will reflect current ground conditions and clearance requirements;
 - c. The area identified at location 403235 E 5427321 N shall be treated as a vegetation retention area; and
 - d. Where feasible, NextBridge shall minimize clearing required to reduce aesthetic impacts on the Ski Trails.
9. To address concerns with the impact of construction on Ski Trails, NextBridge covenants and agrees as follows:
 - a. Wood chips shall not be left on the Ski Trails; and
 - b. Construction and vegetation clearing debris shall be removed from the Ski Trails in accordance with section 2.3 of the Workfront 3 Detailed Project Plan (located at <http://www.nextbridge.ca/public-record-documents>)
10. During construction of the Project NextBridge shall, confer with the Municipality and attend on-site meetings, from time to time as the Municipality may reasonable request to discuss the implementation of this Agreement and other matters of concern to the Municipality relating to the Ski Trails.
11. The provisions hereof relate to the relocation of Ski Trails to accommodate the initial construction of the Project. Nothing herein restricts the general rights of the Municipality under the Easements as to the use of, and conduct of activities on, the Easement Lands including, without limitation, such as may relate to future cross-country skiing and trails therefore. Similarly, nothing herein restricts the rights of NextBridge under the Easements to construct, operate and maintain the Project in accordance with the provisions thereof.

Interpretation

12. In this Agreement,
 - (a) wherever this Agreement refers to a person or thing with reference to gender or the gender neutral, the intention is to read the Agreement with the gender applicable to the circumstances;

- (b) references to items in the plural include the singular, as applicable;
 - (c) the words "include^o "including", "included" or "includes^o are not to be read as limiting the phrases or descriptions that precede or follow them; and
 - (d) headings are inserted for ease of reference only and are not to be used as interpretation aids.
13. The preamble paragraphs are hereby incorporated as an integral part of this Agreement.
 14. Unless otherwise defined, specific references to statutes and regulations in this Agreement are meant to refer to the current statutes and regulations applicable within the Province of Ontario as at the time this Agreement was made, as they are amended and revised from time to time.
 15. References to statutes include any regulations passed under that statute.

Notice

16. Any notice in writing required or permitted to be given to the parties hereto respectively shall be sufficiently given if delivered to the Municipality's Clerk-Treasurer or NextBridge personally or sent by e-mail (provided receipt is acknowledged, with, in the case of NextBridge, such acknowledgment only needing to come from one of the NextBridge addresses set out below), faxed or mailed by registered mail addressed as follows:

In the case of the Municipality:

The Corporation of the Township of Nipigon
52 Front St.
P.O. Box 160
Nipigon, ON P0T 2J0
Phone:
Attention: Clerk-Treasurer
Phone: (807) 887-3135
E-mail: kellyp@nipigon.net

In the case of NextBridge:

NextBridge Infrastructure LP
390 Bay Street, Suite 1720
Toronto, ON M5H 2Y2, Canada
Attention: Business Management
Phone: (416) 364-9714
Email: info@nextbridge.ca

With Copy to:

NextBridge Infrastructure LP
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, Florida 33410, USA
Attention: General Counsel
Phone: (561) 691-2359
Email: info@nextbridge.ca

or to such other address as either party may furnish to the other from time to time.

17. Any notice sent by e-mail or fax shall be deemed to have been received on the date of transmission thereof if sent prior to 12:00 o'clock noon and, if sent after such time, on the next following week day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a statutory holiday.
18. Mailed notices shall be deemed to be given to the addressee on the third normal business day (Monday to Friday, statutory holidays excepted) following the date of such mailing. If a mail strike is in progress or there is a reasonable expectation of a mail strike, notice shall be given by a means other than by mail.
19. Either party may at any time give notice to the other party of any change of address, e-mail or fax number of the party giving such notice and from and after the giving of such notice, the address, and e-mail or fax number therein specified shall be deemed to be the address, e-mail or fax number of such party.

Miscellaneous

20. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.
21. Any provision of this Agreement which imposes an obligation after termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.
22. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any other provision, nor shall any waiver constitute a continuing waiver, unless otherwise expressly provided in writing.
23. Save as provided for in sections 24 and 25, this Agreement may not be assigned by either party without the prior written consent of the other, which may be withheld for any reason in the party's sole discretion.
24. Notwithstanding section 23, the consent of the Municipality to assign this Agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld to a purchaser of all or substantially all of the Project.
25. Notwithstanding section 23, the Municipality does not require the consent of NextBrdge in the event of an amalgamation, annexation, or other change to the Municipality's legal structure.
26. This Agreement will enure to and be binding upon the parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

27. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or email, with a facsimile or email signature being of the same force and effect as an original.
28. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating an employment, partnership or agency relationship between the Municipality and NextBridge. NextBridge shall not: (i) have the power or authority to bind the Municipality or to assume or create any obligation or responsibility, express or implied, on the Municipality's behalf; or (ii) hold itself out as an agent, partner or employee of the Municipality.

Parties Affected

29. This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties hereto and their successors, administrators and permitted assigns.

• **Intentionally blank, signature page to follow-**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have under their respective hands *and* seals executed this Agreement.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON**

By: _____

Name: Richard Harvey
Title: Mayor

By: _____

Name: Kelly Paakkainen
Title: Clerk-Treasurer

**NEXTBRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE LP, by
its general partner UPPER CANADA
TRANSMISSION, INC.**

By: _____

Name:
Title:

By: _____

Name:
Title:

I/we have authority to bind the Corporation

Schedule A : Proposed Beaver Meadow Extensions

Schedule B : Ski Trails

Schedule C : Easements Lands

- 11 -

**SCHEDULE C
EASEMENT LANDS**

EWT6026
PIN NO. 62473-0345 (LT)

PTE 1/2 LT 10 CON 5 NIPIGON PT 1, 2 & 3 PAR530, PT 2 PAR528 EXCEPT PT 1
55R1192, PTS 18-20 55R13454 & PTS 12, 13, 14 & 15 55R12916, PT 42 55R13601;
S/T LPA47153, LPA87825; TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON

EWT6028
PIN NO. 62473-0187 (LJ)

PCL 5759 SEC TBF; W 1/2 LT 10 CON 4 NIPIGON; S/T LPA86398; NIPIGON

TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON

By-law No. __

A By-law to authorize **an** Agreement
with **NextBridge Infrastructure LP**

WHEREAS NextBridge Infrastructure LP (NextBridge) received approval for the construction of the East-West Tie Transmission Line Project which includes a transmission corridor, access roads and related facilities;

AND WHEREAS to complete the said Project NextBridge Infrastructure LP requires the relocation of certain Ski Trails on municipal lands;

NOW THEREFORE The Corporation of the Township of Nipigon ("the Corporation") enacts as follows:

1. The Corporation is authorized to enter into an Agreement with NextBridge Infrastructure LP substantially in the form of Schedule "A" to this By-law.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute the said Agreement under the Corporate Seal of the Corporation with such amendments in wording and description as they may deem necessary and expedient.
3. The Mayor and Clerk are further authorized and directed to take such action and execute such documents, under the Corporate Seal of the Corporation where required, as they may deem necessary and expedient to give effect to this By-law.
4. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on its final day of passing.

ENACTED AND PASSED this ____ day of ____ 2020.

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----- CLERK

Pleson Geoscience Bid - Construction and Refinement of Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Cub Classic Trails

Updated: December 20, 2022

Equipment and Labour	Original Bid Proposal				Expenditures To Date -2021		Remaining & 2022 Expenditures			Total Expenditures
	Hourly Rate	Hours	Days	Sub-total	Hours	Amount	Amount	Actual Hours	Total	
Cat 315BL W Mulcher (Quick-Attach) Note: Used Hyundai 130	\$ 325.00	8	7	\$18,200.00	21	\$ 6,825.00	\$ 11,375.00	28.5	\$ 9,262.50	\$16,087.50
Cat 315BL W Landscaping or tooth bucket	\$ 165.00	8	3	\$ 3,960.00	0					
Used Kubota 5 Tonne Excavator	\$ 95.00				7	\$ 665.00	\$ 3,295.00	53.0	\$ 5,035.00	\$ 5,700.00
Marooka Forwarder	\$ 110.00							4.0	\$ 440.00	\$ 440.00
Brushsaw Worker	\$ 85.00							25.0	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 2,125.00
Culverts	\$ 259.00							2.0	\$ 518.00	\$ 518.00
Two Lumberjacks	\$ 85.00	16	5	\$ 6,800.00	48	\$ 4,080.00	\$ 2,720.00			\$ 4,080.00
	Sub-Total			\$28,960.00		\$ 11,570.00	\$ 17,390.00		\$ 17,380.50	\$ 28,950.50
	HST 13%			\$ 3,764.80		\$ 1,504.10	\$ 2,260.70		\$ 2,259.47	\$ 3,763.57
	Total			\$32,724.80		\$ 13,074.10	\$ 19,650.70		\$ 19,639.97	\$32,714.07

Difference From Original Bid Total \$ 10.74

NextBridge Infrastructure East-West Tie Transmission Project – Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club
 Summary of Concerns, Issues and Response – Amended EA Report – March 29, 2018

Item	Comments, Concerns and Issues	NextBridge Response / Feedback	Resolution / Outstanding Concerns	
Record of Consultation				
1	<p><i>Record of Consultation</i></p> <p>The Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club (RCCSC) raised concerns (draft EA review submission - February 26, 2017) about earlier input (May 3, 2016 E-mail and May 25, 2016 field meeting) not being documented nor being advised on how the club's input was considered.</p>	<p>NextBridge acknowledge in their April 19th, 2017 written response that there was an error in not documenting the specific engagement with the RCCSC in the draft EA, but that the input was being taken into account in preparing the Final EA. NextBridge indicated that the record of consultation would be updated, including how input from the RCCSC has been considered in the EA.</p> <p>In addition a second on site field meeting was hosted on May 3rd, 2017.</p>	<p>In the April 19th, 2017 response NextBridge provided a fairly detailed reply to RCCSC's review of the draft EA, but it certainly was still a work in progress (i.e., further consultation needed). Our second field meeting in May of 2017 was a step towards this, but more dialogue and feedback was expected.</p> <p>There has not been any further discussion or consultation since completing the May 17th meeting minutes, with the following summary of earlier and new concerns left unresolved. The Amended EA Report also appears to have a very limited explanation of how our input was considered, as per the commitment in the April 19th, 2017 response.</p>	
Proposed Infrastructure, Clearing and Access Strategy				
2	<p><i>Laydown Yard</i></p> <p>RCCSC raised concern about a large laydown area uphill and to the west of the ski trails. The main concern was the potential impact of the visual aesthetics (viewscape).</p>	<p>April 19th, 2017 response indicated that this laydown area had been removed from the project proposal.</p>	Issue/concern resolved.	
3	<p><i>Proposed Access Road (Draft EA) south of trail network.</i></p> <p>RSSCC argued that the impact can be reduced by not establishing the proposed link (i.e., access from east and west with no link) and questioned some of the proposed road locations given the terrain conditions.</p>	<p>April 19th, 2017 response indicated (as illustrated on the updated map) that the road link south of the trail network had been removed.</p>	Road access concerns impacting south portion of trail network resolved.	
4	<p><i>Amended EA – New Permanent Road Proposal</i></p> <p>A “permanent” road has now been proposed to run south from Golf Course Road up to tower B088 and B089, after originally being advised that the “roads are intended to be temporary”. NextBridge also chose to not reduce the impact on the trails by upholding to a road link in this area, which in our opinion is not necessary.</p>	<p>Earlier direction from NextBridge (April 19th, 2017) following Draft EA Review.</p> <p>“The spur road ... coming south off Golf Course Road ... built to 8 m road surface and clear ROW of 20 m. These roads are intended to be temporary and will be decommissioned and reclaimed following completion of construction.”</p>	<p>Unresolved:</p> <p>RCCSC was not advised of the decision to shift to a permanent road; after clearly being advised that the proposed roads are temporary, and making a commitment to consult on how to decommission the roads.</p> <p>We also maintain our questioning of the need to have a road link between tower B088 and B089.</p> <p>Construction can be completed via access from the</p>	

NextBridge Infrastructure East-West Tie Transmission Project – Rendezvous Cross Country Ski Club
 Summary of Concerns, Issues and Response – Amended EA Report – March 29, 2018

			east and west in this area. Access/Const. Map 5 – 11 - 018
5	<p><i>Corridor Shift To North and Width of Corridor</i></p> <p>RCCSC questioned the need to have the corridor shift to the north, increasing the impact on the trail network, and also questioned how much of the corridor will be cleared (full clearing of shift from Hydro One Corridor).</p>	<p>April 19th, 2017 response provided a detailed explanation of the planning and infrastructure considerations (e.g., conductor blowout).</p> <p>During the May 3, 2017 field meeting RCCSC requested that clearing be limited between structures B087 and B089. The necessity of clearing all the vegetation/trees in this area under the line was discussed and noted how the Hydro One line spans over the tree cover (i.e., hill top to hill top).</p> <p>Action From Meeting (May 3, 2017 Minutes): “NextBridge to review between structures B086 and B089 so as to limit the clearing.”</p>	<p>Unresolved:</p> <p>RCCSC has not been advised of NextBridge’s review of vegetation removal needs and effort to limit removal between towers B086 and B089.</p>
6	<p><i>Ski Trail Relocation or Repair Fund</i></p> <p>Through correspondence and meetings RCCSC has sought assistance or compensation for trail re-alignments or repairs.</p>	<p>April 19th, 2017 Response:</p> <p>“NextBridge may consider assisting with the establishment of a replacement trail … where a ski trail has been removed … or permanently decommissioned … At this time, NextBridge is not committing to such replacement, prior to reviewing the revised Project location with the Ski Club.”</p>	<p>Unresolved:</p> <p>Despite the fact that the final and amended EA has been submitted (i.e., revised project submission in place) the RCCSC has not been consulted on this matter.</p>

NextBridge Infrastructure East-West Tie Transmission Project – Nor’wester Voyageur Trail Club
 Summary of Concerns, Issues and Response – Amended EA Report – March 29, 2018

Item	Comments, Concerns and Issues	NextBridge Response / Feedback	Resolution / Outstanding Concerns
1	<p>The Nor’wester Voyageur Trail Club expressed concern about the potential impacts of the proposed project on the Mazukama Falls Trail and features of the Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve and Kama Hills Provincial Park. (February 24, 2017 e-mail from Rob Swainson).</p>	<p>April 19th, 2017 Response:</p> <p>“The EWT preferred route and associated access roads cross Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve and avoid Kama Hills Provincial Park”.</p>	<p>This response obviously did not recognize that the majority of the features in this area are outside of the postage stamp size one-hectare park site – known as the “Kama Hills Provincial Park”, and appeared to assume that building roads and crossing the features of the Kama Cliffs Conservation Reserve was not an issue. A puzzling response, and likely associated with lack of boots on the ground.</p>
2	<p>The Nor’wester Voyageur Trail Club re-iterated concerns about the potential impacts of the routes placement within the Kama Cliffs Conservation Area at the May 3rd, 2017 on site field meeting.</p> <p>In addition Chris Leale asked in a minutes review e-mail of July 10th, 2017 that the “original corridor and new corridor proposal be evaluated for their impact … that the proposed deviation may be the right decision – but its impacts should be evaluated against the original location.”</p>	<p>May 3rd Field Site Meeting:</p> <p>“NextBridge will keep the Nor’wester Voyageur Trails Club informed as the project progresses.”</p> <p>On July 20th by e-mail Chris Leale was advised “I have circulated your comments and the revised meeting minutes to the environment team for their review and furtherance”.</p>	<p>Unresolved:</p> <p>No further feedback was received from NextBridge or their “environment team”.</p>
3	<p><i>Amended EA Road Proposal</i></p> <p>NextBridge has added a permanent road in the amended EA that criss-crosses the Mazukama Falls Creek and hiking trail in two locations, impacting this unique and well-visited set of cascading falls.</p>	<p>No Response</p>	<p>Unresolved</p> <p>The Nor’wester Voyageur Trail Club was not notified of the new proposal to establish this permanent road, and questions the competence of this EA process.</p>

Rendezvous XC Ski Club Ski Trail Project - Budget, Modifications/Projections and Paid/Pending Expenditures

Updated: Final Expenditures Paid After Fall 2022 and Pending Project Expenditures

	Original Budget	Expenditure Projections	Variance From Original	Days Paid	Paid Expenditures
Planning and Oversight Consultant Fees and Expenses					
Initial Reconnaissance Site Visit – One Day	\$434.25	\$434.25	\$0.00	1	\$434.25
One Day For Report Preparation	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	1	\$360.00
Overall system analysis and center lining of 3 - 4 kms of roughly four-metre-wide classic ski trail, complete with GPS layout and including all supplies - Four Days	\$1,737.00	\$1,737.00	\$0.00	4	\$1,737.00
Extra Days For Refinement of Layout - 2 Days	\$0.00	\$868.50	\$868.50	2	\$868.50
Construction supervision of trail additions – Seven Days	\$3,039.75	\$3,039.75	\$0.00	7	\$3,039.75
Construction supervision of trail additions – Additional 3 Days		\$1,302.75	\$1,302.75	3	\$1,302.75
Other - Impromtu Parts Pick Up - Mileage Only		\$74.25	\$74.25		\$74.25
Subtotal	\$5,211.00	\$7,816.50	\$2,605.50		\$7,816.50
HST	\$677.43	\$0.00	-\$677.43		\$0.00
Total	\$5,888.43	\$7,816.50	\$1,928.07		\$7,816.50
Construction Costs					
Pleson Trail Construction Contract	\$33,825.00	\$28,960.00	-\$4,865.00		
Fall 2021 Expenditures Invoiced					\$11,570.00
Fall 2022 Expenditures Invoiced					\$17,380.50
Bridge Crossing On Moose Loop Extension and Wetland Boardwalks (for summer maintenance).	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00		\$2,582.98
Advertisement In Gazette		\$55.13	\$55.13		\$55.13
New Brushsaw To Clean Up Trail Construction - 2022					\$1,609.37
Gas and Oil - 2022					\$176.99
Flagging Tape and Paint from KBM - 2022					\$63.05
Lumber and Drill Bit Via Township PO - Home Hardware - 2022					\$243.36
Subtotal	\$39,825.00	\$35,015.13	-\$4,809.87		\$33,681.39
HST	\$5,177.25	\$4,551.97	-\$625.28		\$4,378.58
Total	\$45,002.25	\$39,567.10	-\$5,435.15		\$38,059.97
New Signage Designs and Procurement					
New Trail Network Map Design (Mapping and Graphics Service Provider)	\$1,000.00	TBD			
New Trail Head Map	\$350.00	TBD			
New You Are Here Signs For Junctions and Crossings (17 signs)	\$455.00	TBD			
Wayward Signage for New Trails (12 Signs)	\$300.00	TBD			
Shipping	\$100.00	TBD			
Subtotal	\$2,205.00	\$2,205.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
HST	\$286.65	\$286.65	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total	\$2,491.65	\$2,491.65	\$0.00		\$0.00
Grand Total Project Cost	\$47,241.00	\$45,036.63	-\$2,204.37		\$41,497.89
HST	\$6,141.33	\$4,838.62	-\$1,302.71		\$4,378.58
Grand Total	\$53,382.33	\$49,875.25	-\$3,507.08		\$45,876.47
Mileage per Trip					
Note: Consulting Fee Per Day	\$360.00		\$74.25	Total	\$ 434.25
Remaining With Signage Estimate Spent					
Grand Total Project Cost	\$47,241.00	\$45,036.63	-\$2,204.37		\$3,538.11
HST	\$6,141.33	\$4,838.62	-\$1,302.71		\$1,476.10
Grand Total	\$53,382.33	\$49,875.25	-\$3,507.08		\$5,014.21
Total Remaining - No Sign Expenditures					

Other Expenditures Using Budget Efficiencies

Potential Equipment Purchases

North Side Trail Re-alignment - Private Land Development

Nipigon Historical Museum Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Nipigon Historical Museum Committee is established to provide guidance, oversight, and support for the operation and development of the Nipigon Historical Museum. The Committee acts in an advisory capacity to ensure the museum preserves, interprets, and promotes the heritage of the Lake Nipigon/Nipigon River Basin and the associated north shore of Lake Superior.

2. Mandate

The Committee will:

- Support the preservation and interpretation of artifacts, archives, and stories relevant to the history of the Lake Nipigon/Nipigon River Basin and the associated north shore of Lake Superior.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the Curator regarding museum operations, programming, and development.
- Assist in developing priorities that align with community needs and professional museum standards.
- Advocate for the museum as a community resource and cultural destination.
- Encourage partnerships with Indigenous communities, local organizations, and heritage stakeholders.

3. Governance and Chain of Command

The governance structure of the Nipigon Historical Museum is as follows:

- Township of Nipigon:

Provides overall authority and support for the museum as a municipal asset. Ensures accountability to the community and alignment with municipal goals and policies.

- Economic Development Officer (EDO):

Provides administrative oversight of the Museum through direct supervision of the Curator. Ensures museum activities align with the Township's strategic and economic development priorities. On behalf of the Curator and Museum Committee, is the main liaison with Nipigon Council.

- Curator (Township Employee):

Responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the Museum. Duties include:

- Managing the collection, exhibitions, and archives.
- Developing programs and community outreach initiatives.
- Supervising staff, students, and volunteers.
- Preparing reports, budgets, and funding applications.
- Acting as the main liaison between the Museum Committee, Township administration, and community stakeholders.

- Museum Committee:

Acts in an advisory and support capacity to the Curator. Duties include:

- Providing recommendations on museum programming, exhibits, and priorities.
- Assisting with community engagement, fundraising, and promotional activities.
- Advocating for the Museum within the community.
- Supporting volunteer recruitment and participation.

- Staff, Students, and Volunteers:

Report to and are supervised by the Curator. Duties include assisting with collections management, programming, visitor services, events, and daily operations.

Organizational Chart:

Township of Nipigon → Economic Development Officer → Curator (Township Employee) → Museum Committee / Staff & Volunteers

4. Membership

The Committee shall consist of members appointed by the Township of Nipigon.

Membership may include individuals from the community with interest or expertise in history, culture, or heritage. The Curator will serve as staff support to the Committee.

Township of Nipigon Members - Non-voting:

Curator (EDO as alternate)

One Township Councilor (and an alternate)

Community Members - Voting: (Membership target of five)

Chair

Alternate Chair

Curator Emeritus (Emerita) - Encouraged for legacy support

Members at Large

Other Support (Non-Member):

Secretary, supported via monthly honorarium.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee will:

- Review and advise on museum activities and annual priorities.
- Provide input on exhibitions, exhibits, programming, and public engagement.
- Assist in identifying funding opportunities, partnerships, and promotional strategies.
- Support community outreach, volunteer recruitment, and advocacy for the museum.
- Ensure the museum operates with respect for inclusivity, accessibility, and cultural sensitivity.

6. Meetings

The Committee will meet at least quarterly or as determined necessary. Meetings will follow the procedural by-laws of the Township of Nipigon. Minutes will be recorded and an initial draft review completed by participating members. The curator will then submit the final draft for review and consideration by Township administration and council. Final minutes will be approved at the next committee meeting.

Minimum quorum for making advisory recommendations to Town administration and council will be three members. A proxy can be used for establishing quorum or via an absent member's review of the minutes and voting on recommendation(s) to confirm support.

7. Reporting

An "Annual Nipigon Historical Museum Report" at year end (December) highlighting activities and achievements, including committee recommendations and council's response, will be prepared by the curator with the support of the committee for presentation to council.

8. Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed every three (3) years or as required to reflect changes in governance or community needs. Amendments require approval by the Township of Nipigon.

9. Remuneration

Committee members serve in a volunteer capacity and receive no remuneration. Pre-approved expenses may be reimbursed in accordance with Township policy.

8. Communications

All public communication must go through the Curator or vetted through the Curator in advance. Any requests or complaints received by Committee members must be forwarded immediately to the Curator.

Administrative Information

- Date of Council Approval: _____
- Council Resolution Number: _____
- Date of Committee Review: _____
- Previous Version Date: _____

Nipigon Historical Museum

Strategic Plan 2025–2030

Date: October 14, 2025

Prepared by: Curator, Nipigon Historical Museum
Contact: nipigonmuseum@nipigon.net | 807-887-0356

Approved by Nipigon Museum Committee on _____

Approved by Nipigon Council on _____



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Land Acknowledgment

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Corporation of the Township of Nipigon respectfully acknowledges it is located on the traditional lands of the Red Rock Indian Band – Signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and the Township further respectfully acknowledges the historic presence of other signatories on these lands.

Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

To be a dynamic, engaging, and inclusive cultural hub that celebrates and preserves the history, heritage, and natural environment of the Lake Nipigon/Nipigon River Basin and the associated north shore of Lake Superior for current and future generations.

Mission

The Nipigon Historical Museum collects, protects, and displays artifacts representing the time period from before European contact to the present day, while respecting local Indigenous culture and heritage. The museum interprets local and regional history through exhibits, programs, and outreach, making the past accessible and meaningful to the public.

Core Values

Preservation: We safeguard artifacts, archives, and stories with the highest professional standards.

Education: We provide meaningful learning opportunities for all ages through interactive exhibits and programs.

Community Engagement: We actively involve local residents, Indigenous communities, and regional partners in museum initiatives.

Accessibility: We strive to make our collections and programs available to everyone, both onsite and digitally.

Innovation: We embrace new ideas, technology, and methods to create immersive, engaging experiences.

Respect & Inclusivity: We honor diverse perspectives and ensure all voices are represented in our storytelling.

Executive Summary

The Nipigon Historical Museum is entering an exciting new phase. With a new curator bringing progressive ideas, funding for an intern, digitization projects, and support from the Thunder Bay Museum for policy development, the museum is poised to become a dynamic, interactive, and immersive cultural hub.

This plan outlines strategic priorities for the next five years, emphasizing:

1. Expanding interactive and multi-sensory exhibits.
2. Enhancing storytelling, interpretive narratives, and immersive displays to create engaging visitor experiences.
3. Developing a children's learning area and a brook trout aquarium.
4. Strengthening governance, staff capacity, and professional development.
5. Increasing digital engagement, including online collections and virtual programs.
6. Enhancing community outreach, partnerships, and tourism opportunities, including promoting Lake Superior Circle Tour initiatives.

By implementing this plan, the museum will engage visitors of all ages, preserve and interpret regional history, and serve as a key cultural destination on the North Shore.

1. Introduction

The Nipigon Historical Museum is at a pivotal moment in its evolution. With a renewed leadership team, professional development initiatives, and a commitment to enhancing visitor engagement, the museum aims to transform into a dynamic cultural hub. This strategic plan outlines the steps to modernize operations, expand community involvement, and position the museum as a leading destination on the North Shore.

Key highlights shaping this plan include:

1. New curator with progressive ideas.
2. Curator enrolled in Ontario Museum Association courses (completion in two years).
3. Funded intern position to assist with programming, digitization, and outreach.

4. Funding secured for digitization of the collection.
5. Collaboration with the Thunder Bay Museum to draft professional governance and operational policies.
6. Focus on interactive, multi-sensory, storytelling, and immersive visitor experiences.
7. Integration of digital engagement to reach wider audiences.

2. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

1. Extensive collection (9,000+ artifacts).
2. Home of the world record brook trout (replica and documentation).
3. Progressive new curator completing Ontario Museum Association courses (2-year timeline).
4. Funded intern position.
5. Funding secured for digitization through Parks Canada.
6. Governance support via Thunder Bay Museum policies.
7. Strong community and Township support.
8. Commitment to immersive, interactive, and storytelling-focused visitor experiences.

Weaknesses:

1. Limited advertising and outreach.
2. Limited operating hours may restrict visitor access.
3. Space constraints for large or new exhibits.
4. Limited financial resources.

5. Existing wayfinding signage and digital marketing.

Opportunities:

1. Development of interactive, hands-on exhibits.
2. Multi-sensory experiences incorporating sounds and smells.
3. Storytelling-focused displays and narratives.
4. Children's learning area.
5. Brook trout aquarium exhibit highlighting local natural heritage.
6. Expansion of outreach programs with schools, businesses, and Provincial Parks.
7. Participation in the Lake Superior Circle Tour to increase tourism visibility.
8. Enhanced digital engagement including online collections and virtual programs.
9. Use the Museum as a draw to downtown businesses and to support the local economy.

Threats:

1. Highway relocation potentially reducing visitor traffic.
2. Funding uncertainty affecting long-term projects.
3. Environmental risks impacting collections and exhibits.
4. Community resistance to change or modernization efforts.

3. Strategic Priorities & Measurable Objectives

A. Governance & Capacity

Objective, Timeline & Expected Outcome

- Complete Ontario Museum Association courses for curator. Year 1-2. Curator achieves professional accreditation and enhanced expertise.

Nipigon Historical Museum Strategic Plan 2025-2030

- Implement new policies drafted by Thunder Bay Museum. Year 1–2. Professional governance standards and improved operational procedures.
- Establish staff and volunteer training programs. Year 1–3. Enhanced staff capacity and succession planning.
- Hire and mentor intern. Year 1. Intern supports digitization, programming, and community outreach.

B. Exhibits & Visitor Experience

Objective, Timeline & Expected Outcome

- Launch interactive exhibits. Year 1–2. Visitors engage in hands-on experiences, increasing attendance.
- Develop storytelling-focused displays and interpretive narratives. Year 1–3. Visitors gain immersive understanding of local history and cultural heritage.
- Incorporate multi-sensory elements (sounds, smells, tactile features). Year 2–3. Enhanced visitor immersion and satisfaction.
- Establish children's learning area. Year 1–2. Educational play space attracts school groups and families.
- Install brook trout aquarium. Year 2. Highlight Lake Nipigon and Nipigon River heritage, and boost experiential learning.
- Digitize collection and provide online access. Year 1–3. Improved research access and remote engagement through digital platforms.
- Create visitor survey and manage visitor data accordingly to aid in effective decision making.

C. Community Engagement & Outreach

Objective, Timeline & Expected Outcome

- Partner with schools and regional organizations & increased educational programming and field trips (Years 1-3)
- Participate in Lake Superior Circle Tour Increased regional tourism and visitor traffic (Year 2)
- Improve social media presence and engagement.
- Host workshops, storytelling sessions, seasonal events Stronger community involvement and repeat visitation (Years 1-5)
- Expand volunteer engagement & more support for programming, events, and research (Years 1–3)
- Create an effective programming schedule

D. Financial Sustainability

Objective, Timeline & Expected Outcome

- Secure additional grants and sponsorships. Years 1–5. Diversified revenue streams and reduced dependency on single sources.
- Develop fundraising events linked to collections. Year 2–5. Increased funding for exhibits, programs, and maintenance.
- Explore gift shop or merchandise options. Year 3–5. Supplemental revenue and visitor engagement.

4. Measuring Success

To ensure the museum's strategic objectives are achieved, progress will be tracked by using the following indicators:

- a) Visitation: Track the number of onsite visitors, school groups, and event attendees annually.
- b) Participation: Measure engagement in workshops, educational programs, and interactive exhibits.
- c) Outreach: Monitor partnerships, community collaborations, and digital engagement metrics (website visits, online research requests, social media interactions).
- d) Visitor Feedback: Collect satisfaction surveys and qualitative input to assess the quality of experiences.
- e) Collections Access: Track digitization progress and the use of online collections by the public and researchers.
- f) Financial Metrics: Review funding secured, revenue generated, and sustainability of programs.

These indicators will guide ongoing evaluation and allow the museum to adapt and enhance visitor experiences, community engagement, and operational effectiveness.

5. Implementation & Timeline

Year 1-2 (January 1, 2026- December 31, 2027):

Nipigon Historical Museum Strategic Plan 2025-2030

- Launch initial interactive exhibits and multi-sensory experiences.
- Begin design and set up children's area and brook trout aquarium.
- Complete digitization of priority collections.
- Implement policies drafted by the Thunder Bay Museum.
- Curator progresses in Ontario Museum Association courses.
- Creation of effective Media package and update/replacement of existing marketing materials.
- Social media promotion of events and programming.

Year 3 (January 1, 2028-December 31, 2028)

- Open Children's area and brook trout aquarium to the public.
- Seek funding to re-develop the Township's historical walking tour.
- Expand interactive programming for school groups and families.
- Extend seasonal hours to accommodate experiential programming.
- Evaluate exhibits and gather visitor feedback for refinement.

Year 4-5 (January 1, 2029- December 31, 2030)

- Host immersive community events and workshops.
- Assess success of initiatives, adjust strategy as needed.
- Explore further expansions, additional partnerships, and sustainable funding opportunities.

6. Looking Ahead

The Nipigon Historical Museum envisions a future where visitors experience history, rather than simply observe it. Planned initiatives include:

1. Interactive, hands-on exhibits.

2. Multi-sensory experiences with soundscapes and scents.
3. A children's learning area for educational play.
4. Brook trout aquarium connecting natural history to cultural heritage.
5. Digitized collections accessible online.
6. Strengthened governance, professional development, and community partnerships.
7. Through these efforts, the museum will continue to serve as a vibrant, inclusive, and professionally managed cultural hub for the Lake Nipigon region and beyond.

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