



Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay Districts

c/o 161 East Brock Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 4H1
Tel. (807) 626-0155 / Cell. (807) 628-6396
Fax (807) 626-8163
E-mail: ktaniwa@tbaytel.net

PRESIDENT

Anne Krassilowsky

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ken Taniwa

W. J. Blower
President

The District of Kenora Unincorporated Ratepayers Association
Box 1245
Keewatin, Ontario
P0X 1C0

October 14, 2007

Dear Mr. Blower

This will acknowledge your letter of October 8 sent to Mayor Anne Krassilowsky, President of NOMA, where you seek participation in the Common Voice Initiative. President Anne has referred it to me in my capacity as Chair of the Common Voice initiative to respond.

Let me start by saying I am most disappointed in the tone of your letter! As you will find below the assumptions that you based your very premise on is totally inaccurate. In addition, your threat to undermine the work of the Common Voice Initiative is counter productive to the desire of the region to collectively move our economy forward. I hope that the information found below will assist you and your organization in adopting a more positive approach than you have displayed in your letter.

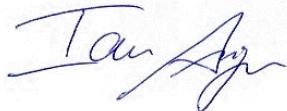
At this point in time it is important to note that the only organizations that have been formally invited to join the Common Voice Initiative are the First Nations Treaty Organizations. No other organizations, including those who participated in the development of the Forging the Future report, have been asked to participate or name anyone to sit on the multi-stakeholder committee that will constitute the Common Voice. Our invitation to the First Nation's is consistent with the direction that NOMA was given by our membership at our AGM this past spring in Dryden.

The version of the Common Voice Initiative presented to the NOMA AGM clearly had one spot at this new 'table' for the Townships without Municipal Organization (TWOMO)¹. We are committed to including that sector of our region at the table. We are also pleased to be advised that there are two distinct organizations which we can communicate with. We are in the final stages of engaging a firm to assist us in facilitating the creation of both the Common Voice entity and the numerous task forces and committees that form the second level of the organization. Once the consulting team is in place they will begin the process of contacting the identified stakeholders to confirm the makeup of the organization and to obtain support and a consensus to move forward. We aim to have the first meeting of the entity in January of 2008.

It is also important for your two organizations to understand that membership in the Common Voice requires a commitment to assist in the financing of the operation of the body. NOMA Members, with the exception of one, have agreed to contribute 15 cents per capita for 2007 and 2008 towards the creation and operation of the Common Voice. In addition, 23 municipalities have agreed to lend their names to a Northern Communities Investment Readiness Program application which, if approved, will lead to an additional \$115,000 provided to the Common Voice Initiative. We look forward to learning the level of financial commitment that your two organizations will bring to the organization.

The Common Voice will only be of value if the people who become part of it are committed to finding solutions that benefit the region as a whole. We look forward to having your organizations represented on this new table.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iain Angus".

Iain Angus
Chair
Common Voice Initiative

CC NOMA Board of Directors
Kenora District Municipal Association
Thunder Bay District Municipal Association
Rainy River District Municipal Association

¹ Copy of draft organization chart attached

