

FONOM

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

September 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
SENT BY EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

RE: FONOM Suggests a Change in Provincial, Nation Building Priorities.

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), I am writing to respectfully request your support in advancing the twinning and 2+1 model for Highways 11 and 17 by ensuring that this project is placed on the Federal Government's **Major Projects Office (MPO) list**.

As you are aware, Prime Minister Carney has indicated that the federal preference will be to prioritize the Churchill Site. While we acknowledge the importance of that initiative, we firmly believe that upgrading Northern Ontario's core highway network must be advanced with equal urgency. Safe, reliable, and modern transportation links are essential for the movement of people, goods, and services—and are a foundation for the economic and social vitality of our region.

We also note that your government's MPO list included a proposed deep-sea port in Moosonee, which now appears to be off the table for the time being. This presents an opportunity for you to make the **twinning and 2+1 model for Highway 11 and 17** a priority project. Importantly, this initiative also directly supports two of your government's existing MPO priorities—the Ring of Fire and nuclear energy development—by strengthening the transportation corridors needed to make these projects viable.

FONOM has established a coalition (the Committee) to champion this project. As part of this effort:

- A Committee member has met with the Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Federal Natural Resources;
- The Committee also met with the Assistant Deputy Minister Jeff Labonté of the Ministry of Federal Natural Resources;
- We are actively engaging with the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA) to strengthen both technical and industry support.

With these steps, we are building momentum to ensure that this initiative is recognized as a

nation-building project that benefits all Canadians. To fully succeed, however, we require the Province of Ontario's leadership in placing Highway 11/17 improvements firmly on the MPO list.

Premier, your government has consistently demonstrated a commitment to Northern Ontario. By championing this project alongside us, you will help deliver a safer, more resilient transportation system that supports industry, enhances connectivity, and saves lives.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to provide further details and to outline how the Committee is working to advance this effort.
Thank you for your continued support of Northern Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danny Whalen', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Danny Whalen
President

cc'd Minister Pirie
Minister Fedeli
Minister Rickford
Associate Minister Holland
Associate Minister Smith
Mr. Scott