



ELECT

Michael O'Flaherty

City of Kenora Council — Vote October 26, 2026

LEADERSHIP

INTEGRITY

ACTION

 www.kenoramichael.ca

 Kenora, Ontario · Lake of the Woods



Meet Michael O'Flaherty

 Kenora Municipal Council — October 26, 2026



ROOTS IN KENORA

Deep ties to this community

- 27-year year-round resident of Kenora
- Lifelong seasonal resident on Lake of the Woods
- Property owner on Coney Island for 35+ years
- Family arrived in Kenora in the early 1900s
- Multiple generations of community service

 Kenora, ON · Lake of the Woods · Coney Island



PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

Engineering, governance & community leadership

- Engineering Consultant in Northern Ontario
- Board of Directors — Lake of the Woods Investment Corp (LOWBIC)
- Named Fellow of Engineers Canada (Professional Engineers Ontario)
- Appointed Director — Lake of the Woods Control Board (two terms)
- Co-founder — Coney Island Music Festival (15 years)
- Director for a publicly traded mineral development company
- Assisted First Nations via Kenogamisis Investment Corporation
- Board of Directors – Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce
- Project Management Professional - PMP
- Common Ground Group – Tunnel Island
- Board of Directors - Lake of the Woods Center for the Arts

Three Pillars of O'Flaherty's Campaign

Focused priorities for Kenora's next term of Council

PILLAR 01



Economic Development

Tourism, Campus of Care
& All Nations Hospital

- Leverage major capital funding streams
- Support tourism revitalization
- Drive downtown business growth

PILLAR 02



City Infrastructure

21 bridges, roads,
stormwater & sewer

- Address compounding infrastructure deficit
- Proactive capital investment planning
- Engineering expertise guiding Council

PILLAR 03



Service Delivery

Water, wastewater
& municipal solid waste

- Review operations to minimize cost increases
- Efficient, reliable & affordable delivery
- Identify savings without service reduction

Economic Development Strategy

KENORA AT A PIVOTAL POINT IN HISTORY

PILLAR 01
Economic Development



NEAR TERM

Campus of Care & All Nations Hospital

Anchor economic driver — align capital plan with federal & provincial funding: Building Communities Strong Fund, Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund



MID TERM: 1-3 YEARS

Housing as Economic Asset

Housing shortage is a business barrier — solve the housing deficit to unlock business attraction, worker relocation & sustained economic growth



NEAR TERM

Tourism Revitalization

Address changing tourist patterns, supply chain shifts & workforce demographics — leverage Canada's growth moment for Kenora's competitive advantage



LONG TERM: 3-5 YEARS

Downtown & Industrial Growth

New businesses on Main & Second Streets; additional hotel & conference centre; new industrial tenant for Jones Road industrial park

Leadership • Integrity • Action

Infrastructure: Urgent Priority

 URGENT

PILLAR 02
City Infrastructure

Kenora faces a significant and compounding infrastructure deficit.

1



Bridges

21

Municipal Bridges

Require upkeep, repair and capital investment to maintain safety and service standards.



2



Roads

ANNUAL PRIORITY

Annual maintenance and upkeep demands — proactive planning required to prevent compounding deterioration.



3



Stormwater

 July 6, 2026 Rain Event

Exposed **urgent stormwater vulnerabilities** across Kenora — immediate assessment and remediation required.



4



Sewer & Water Expansion

GROWTH-CRITICAL

Municipal systems must expand to support forecasted city growth and new residential development.



Engineering Advantage: Michael's engineering background provides unique guidance to Council and Staff on these technical challenges.

Service Delivery: Steady & Sustainable

Optimizing essential municipal services without sacrificing quality.



Water & Wastewater

Costs rising annually — review operations to minimize future increases and ensure rate affordability for Kenora residents.

ANNUAL REVIEW



Solid Waste Management

Ongoing delivery, operation and management efficiency review — sustained performance without compromising service levels.

EFFICIENCY REVIEW



Cost Optimization

Work with fellow councillors to identify meaningful savings without service reduction — smart fiscal management for Kenora taxpayers.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE



Municipal services are not optional — they must be delivered **efficiently, reliably** and **affordably**.

Housing: A Crisis-Level Priority

Source: 2025 Housing Needs Assessment — Tim Welch Consulting Inc.

CRISIS



1,620

UNITS SHORT — RIGHT NOW (2025)

Forecasted to reach 2,500 units by 2031 without urgent action. Kenora's housing deficit is accelerating.



Campus of Care

Expedite the **residential component** alongside Wiigwas Care Home — align construction timelines to maximize community impact.



Vacant Lot Inventory

Canvas lot owners across the city — **connect to pre-approved builders & developers** ready to build now.



Building Dept. Reform

Streamline permitting with template designs and electronic inspections — cut red tape, accelerate approvals.



CMHC Financing

Leverage **federal housing programs** to finance first-time buyer and low-income housing — unlock available capital.



RTM Builders

Place **ready-to-move-in homes** on serviced city lots — fast-track supply using proven off-site construction methods.

2027 Budget: **Fiscal Discipline** & Smart Investment



The Reality of Municipal Budgeting



~80%

Non-discretionary budget
— outside Council's direct control

OPP

KDSB

NWHU

Pinecrest

- **Discretionary items** still fund essential day-to-day municipal services
- **Council has limited short-term levers** — major cost drivers are externally set



O'Flaherty's Budget Strategy

1

SHORT

SHORT TERM

Maintain Status Quo

Hold the line — control discretionary spending increases and avoid unnecessary budget expansion

2

MEDIUM

MEDIUM TERM

Operational Audits & Service Reviews

Systematic review of municipal operations to identify inefficiencies and meaningfully reduce costs

3

LONG

LONG TERM

Fund Deficit — Grow the Tax Base

Address the infrastructure deficit; grow population and expand the tax base to sustainably increase municipal revenue



Kenricia Hotel: Downtown Revitalization Anchor

A focal point of downtown Kenora's future — expropriation complete, RFP underway, new Council to decide.



Current Status



Expropriation Complete

✓ DONE



Possession expected Fall 2026

UPCOMING



Open RFP process (Request for Proposals) underway



Expect one to two proposals from developers



Administration to **evaluate & recommend** to new Council — *likely November 2026*



O'Flaherty's Commitment



Champion thorough proposal evaluation — no shortcuts on due diligence



Ensure full transparency in the selection process — open & accountable



Connect hotel redevelopment to broader *Main & Second Street* renewal vision



Target **at least one additional hotel & conference/event centre** for Kenora long-term



"We must succeed — this project is essential to downtown." The Kenricia Hotel is not just a building; it is the catalyst for Kenora's next chapter of downtown growth, economic vitality, and community pride.

WEBSITE

www.kenoramichael.ca

Community Safety & Well-Being Plan

A comprehensive 10-year plan — implementation needs acceleration.

10-YEAR PLAN



ABOUT THE PLAN

7

GOALS

7

PRIORITY AREAS

15

RECOMMENDATIONS

48

ACTIONS

- ✓ Cross-sector committee: municipality, OPP, health, education, mental health, judicial & community members
- ✓ Structured framework: 7 goals, 7 priority areas, 15 recommendations, 48 actions — comprehensive by design
- ✓ Visual dashboard tracks real-time progress across all priority areas



Live progress dashboard — tracking implementation in real time



O'FLAHERTY'S PRIORITIES

- Strengthen coordination between fragmented service providers across the city
- Expedite HART Hub patient tracking tool for common client intake across providers
- Focus on the full pathway: treatment → recovery → housing → employment
- Work with those who show desire to recover — meet people where they are
- Measure outcomes — not just activity. Real accountability, real results



Engineering discipline applied to social outcomes — structured, measurable, accountable



The city can and must play a stronger coordinating role — Michael will accelerate action, not just track it.

Weekly Miner & News Q&A: Michael's Answers

Kenora's local newspaper put the hard questions — here are the highlights.

 LOCAL PRESS Q&A SERIES

Aug 31, 2026

Why are you running & what is your platform?

Lifelong community roots, engineering expertise, and a desire to serve Kenora's next chapter of growth.

Sep 7, 2026

What is your vision for downtown Kenora?

Kenricia Hotel success, new businesses on Main & Second Streets, additional hotel/conference venue for the city long-term.

Sep 14, 2026

What service would you improve even if it meant raising taxes? What would you reduce?

Improve: Housing support infrastructure. Review: Cost optimization of non-essential services. www.kenoramichael.ca

Sep 21, 2026

Water rate increases

Committed to reviewing operations and minimizing rate increases — see full response at www.kenoramichael.ca

Sep 28, 2026

Truth & Reconciliation + amalgamating properties outside city boundaries

History of collaboration with First Nations — Common Ground Initiative, Kenogamisis Corp. See full response at www.kenoramichael.ca

THE CANDIDATE

Why **Michael O'Flaherty**?

“While I have a skillset in demand throughout North America, I work exclusively in Northern Ontario to develop this economy — and I want to offer this expertise to the electorate of Kenora.”

— Michael O'Flaherty



Integrity

Honest, principled leadership



Collaboration

Building bridges across sectors



Engineering Expertise

Fellow of Engineers Canada



Community Roots

27 years rooted in Kenora

CITY OF KENORA COUNCIL — OCTOBER 26, 2026

VOTE

Michael O'Flaherty



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ELECTION DAY

October 26, 2026

KENORA

YOUR FEEDBACK SHAPES THIS CAMPAIGN — REACH OUT TODAY