

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

*Cherry Hill Beach – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg*



# INTRODUCTION

**Welcome to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) 2025 Annual Report.** As the unified voice of Nova Scotia’s 49 municipalities, NSFM continues to advance the shared priorities of locally elected officials and the communities they serve.

Guided by our 16-member Board of Directors—elected by the membership—and supported by an appointee from the Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia (AMANS), NSFM remains focused on strong governance, collaboration, and results.

Throughout 2025, we strengthened our advocacy efforts, deepened partnerships across orders of government, and supported municipalities in navigating an increasingly complex operating environment. Through strategic policy leadership, targeted programming, and effective funding administration, NSFM continues to help municipalities deliver essential services and foster resilient, sustainable communities across Nova Scotia.

# MISSION

To enable effective local government for Nova Scotia’s communities by facilitating strategic advocacy, education, and collaboration.

# VISION

Effective local government and strong, sustainable communities.

# FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We commit to focused advocacy, passionately championing the causes and issues that align with our vision and mission.
2. We commit to continuity rooted in the belief that financial stability is essential to achieving our mission and making a lasting impact.
3. We commit to honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour in all our interactions and decisions.
4. We commit to being responsive in all our interactions and operations.
5. We believe that collaboration is essential for achieving our best outcomes.



*Cape Forchu – Municipality of the District of Yarmouth*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MAYOR PAM MOOD**  
Town of Yarmouth  
President



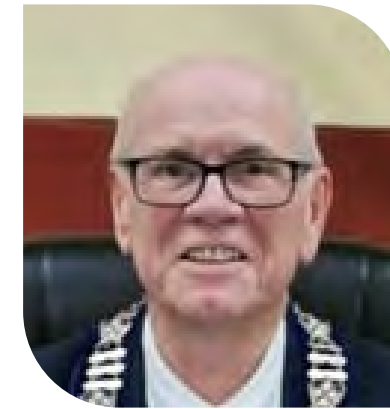
**MAYOR DAVID MITCHELL**  
Town of Bridgewater  
Vice-President



**MAYOR BRENDA CHISHOLM-BEATON**  
Town of Port Hawkesbury  
Past President



**COUNCILLOR PHIL MOONEY**  
Municipality of the District of Yarmouth  
Southwestern Shore Representative



**MAYOR LENNIE WHITE**  
Town of Westville  
Colchester/Cumberland/Pictou/East Hants  
Representative



**COUNCILLOR ANDY THOMPSON**  
Municipality of Pictou County  
Colchester/Cumberland/Pictou/East Hants  
Representative



**DEPUTY WARDEN AMANDA MOMBOURQUETTE**  
Municipality of the County of Richmond  
Cape Breton Strait Representative



**DEPUTY MAYOR CHASIDY VEINOTTE**  
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg  
South Shore Representative



**DEPUTY MAYOR MADDIE CHARLTON**  
Region of Queens Municipality  
South Shore Representative



**COUNCILLOR ELDON MACDONALD**  
CBRM Representative



**DEPUTY WARDEN JOHN DUNBAR**  
Municipality of the County of Antigonish  
Cape Breton Strait Representative



**COUNCILLOR ADELE (ADDIE) MACDONALD**  
Town of Annapolis Royal  
Valley Representative



**COUNCILLOR SAM AUSTIN**  
HRM Representative



**COUNCILLOR SAM AUSTIN**  
HRM Representative



**COUNCILLOR BELLE HATFIELD**  
Town of Yarmouth  
Southwestern Shore Representative



**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA SAPPINGTON**  
Municipality of the County of Kings  
Valley Representative



**MIKE DOLTER**  
AMANS Representative



Town of Annapolis Royal – Oqwa'titek Amphitheatre



## NSFM STAFF

JUANITA SPENCER – Chief Executive Officer

MARY CLAIRE LAKE – Director of Finance

DANI COFFEY – Director of Policy & Government Relations

JUDY WEBBER – Director of Events & Member Development

IAN MORRISON – Director of Operations & Communications

CHARLENE FEKESHAZY – Communications Advisor

DAVE MACISAAC – Environment & Climate Change Policy Advisor

LUCY MACLEOD – Economic & Natural Resources Policy Advisor

MARK OHANYAN – Fund Navigator

WESLEY PETITE – Policy Advisor

GORDON SMITH – Coastal Land Use Planning Coordinator

CHARLOTTE TAVENOR – Office Administrator

DEBBIE NIELSEN – Lead Program Manager, SCCF

BRANDON DURKEE – Senior Grant Coordinator, SCCF

DAWN HAGGETT – Grant Coordinator, SCCF

GAB LEVERT – Communications & Engagement Officer, SCCF



Green Bay – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (Kas Stone)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PAM MOOD  
Mayor Town of Yarmouth

It is my privilege to present this message on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Municipal governments continue to lead at the front lines of community life, responding to growing pressures while advancing the priorities that matter most to residents. In 2025, NSFM remained focused on one central objective: ensuring municipalities have a strong, respected voice in the decisions that shape our communities. There is no other place for us but at the tables where decisions impacting us are made.

As President, I see not only the leadership across Nova Scotia's 49 municipalities, but also the immediate, tangible impact leadership has upon each of our communities. That reality underscores the importance of courage, strong advocacy, effective governance, and collaboration across all orders of government.

Throughout the year, NSFM championed the priorities identified by members — advocating for sustainable funding, stronger partnerships, and policy solutions that reflect the realities municipalities face. As challenges evolve, our collective voice remains essential to advancing practical, long-term solutions for communities.

The Board of Directors has worked diligently to ensure NSFM, as the legislated body representing all municipalities, remains strategic, member-driven, and responsive. Representing diverse regions and perspectives, the Board's strength lies in collaboration and shared purpose. I extend sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their leadership and commitment. Oh... and for keeping me on track and accountable!

Most importantly, I want to recognize the dedication of locally-elected officials. Public service at the municipal level requires vision, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to community. Your leadership continues to shape a strong future for Nova Scotia.

As we look ahead, NSFM will remain focused on advocating for municipalities, fostering collaboration, and championing solutions that support vibrant, sustainable communities.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued leadership and engagement. Let's never underestimate the power of what we do together: we are shaping a strong municipal future for Nova Scotia.



Town of Digby – Waterfront in Winter



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**JUANITA SPENCER**  
Chief Executive Officer

The year 2025 has been one of progress, partnership, and continued evolution for municipalities across Nova Scotia. In a dynamic environment marked by growth, fiscal pressures, and rising expectations, NSFM remained focused on delivering strong advocacy, responsive member services, and practical support for municipalities.

Guided by member priorities and Board direction, our work this year centred on advancing strategic advocacy while strengthening the programs, services, and relationships that support municipal success. From housing and infrastructure to climate adaptation, emergency management, and governance, NSFM worked to ensure municipal perspectives informed policy development and funding discussions.

A key priority in 2025 was deepening engagement with provincial and federal partners through consultations, committees, and direct collaboration. These efforts helped reinforce the role of municipalities as essential partners in addressing shared challenges and advancing community solutions.

Supporting members beyond advocacy remained equally important. Through conferences, professional development opportunities, committee work, and peer learning, NSFM continued to build municipal capacity and create opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

We also continued to administer and support initiatives designed to deliver tangible outcomes in communities, with a focus on accountability, transparency, and measurable impact. This work reflects NSFM's commitment not only to advocacy, but to practical service delivery that supports members.

Internally, we advanced efforts to strengthen organizational effectiveness — enhancing communications, refining processes, and ensuring members have timely access to information and support. In a fast-moving environment, responsive service and clear communication remain fundamental to our work.

I extend sincere appreciation to President Pam Mood and the Board of Directors for their strategic leadership, and to the NSFM team for their professionalism and dedication. I also thank the elected officials and municipal administrators whose leadership and service continue to strengthen communities across Nova Scotia.

Municipalities are where innovation takes root, resilience is built, and growth happens. NSFM is proud to support local governments as they meet today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's opportunities.

Together, we are strengthening municipal leadership and advancing a prosperous future for Nova Scotia's communities.



Blue Rocks Fishing Village – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NSFM Annual Elections

NSFM held its third regular election for the Board of Directors using the online voting system. Electronic voting continued to support broader member participation and reflected NSFM’s commitment to inclusive, accessible, and user-friendly engagement in organizational decision-making.

### NSFM By-law Changes

Several amendments to the NSFM By-Laws were presented for membership consideration at the Annual General Meeting on November 6, 2025. Motions related to Housekeeping, Executive Committee Composition and Quorum, and Election of the Board of Directors were carried. Proposed amendments related to Rights of Members and Board Composition were defeated.

The NSFM By-Laws were amended based on the AGM results and updated by-laws were posted on the NSFM website.

### Recent Amendments to Provincial Legislation

#### SPRING 2025

Bill 24 – Link Nova Scotia Act NSFM responded to legislation granting expanded ministerial authority over transportation infrastructure and municipal transportation decisions. Through advocacy, NSFM secured commitments supporting collaboration and fair cost-sharing for ordered work. Accompanying regulations introduced in February 2026 established criteria requiring municipal consultation and consideration of local budget impacts before orders may be issued.

#### FALL 2025

Bill 130 – Traffic Safety Act modernized elements of the Motor Vehicle Act, including new municipal authorities related to speed limits, excessive noise, and winter parking management. NSFM provided written formal correspondence to the Minister of Public Works expressing member concerns surrounding requirements that were potentially downloaded onto municipalities and calling for 12-month notice that is helpful for municipalities to plan for increased expenditures.

Bill 141 – Municipal Modernization Act introduced changes affecting municipal planning, taxation flexibility, childcare land designation, and the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant. NSFM monitored Bill 141 throughout the legislative process and provided members with regular and timely information and analysis on legislative developments affecting municipalities.

Bill 158 – Fire Safety and Services Act established a timeline and consultation framework for the development of a legislative framework for fire services. NSFM, in conjunction with AMANS, produced and submitted a joint response during the consultation period for Bill 158. When the final report was released, NSFM staff analyzed the recommendations in order to identify points of agreement and points in need of further clarification.

#### SPRING 2026

Bill 186 – Support for Fire Protection Services Act established a new legislative framework for municipal fire protection services, including provincewide standards, training requirements, and municipal fire service reviews. NSFM worked with the Department of Emergency Management to facilitate two virtual fire service modernization planning sessions between the department and our membership in February 2026. On March 2, 2026, NSFM appeared before the Standing Committee of Public Bills to provide remarks on Bill 186.

Bill 193 – Powering the Economy Act created a revenue framework for offshore wind development and expanded clean energy procurement authorities. NSFM monitored Bill 193 throughout the legislative process and provided members with regular and timely information and analysis on legislative developments affecting municipalities.

Bill 198 – Financial Measures Act introduced amendments related to electronic property notices, assessment appeal processes, and reporting requirements related to commercial carbon sequestration. NSFM monitored Bill 198 throughout the legislative process and provided members with regular and timely information and analysis on legislative developments affecting municipalities.

Bill 212 – Administrative Measures for Housing Act introduced amendments related to council oversight of CAOs and orientation requirements for newly elected councillors. NSFM monitored Bill 212 throughout the legislative process and provided members with regular and timely information and analysis on legislative developments affecting municipalities.



Town of Amherst – Downtown

# ADVOCACY & ISSUE MONITORING

## Accessibility

NSFM monitored emerging accessibility standards and assessed implications for municipalities.

Work included:

- Consulted with partners regarding proposed transit accessibility standards.
- Reviewed municipal readiness to meet proposed requirements.
- Continued monitoring of accessibility standards development.

## Advisory Committees

### CLIMATE CHANGE

The Climate Change Advisory Committee:

- Welcomed two new members.
- Advanced advocacy priorities related to coastal land-use planning and aerial herbicide spraying.
- Explored programs and supports available to municipalities for coastal planning.
- Continued advocacy related to glyphosate spraying through federal correspondence.

### EQUITY & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee:

- Expanded committee membership and welcomed a new member.
- Advanced advocacy related to a basic income guarantee, including correspondence with the Province, receipt of an acknowledgement, and the inclusion of member education on the topic as part of the 2025 Fall Conference programming.
- Strengthened education efforts on equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility through expert engagement and conference programming.
- Elevated public library funding as an advocacy priority and continued work documenting municipal contributions and alignment with provincial priorities.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure Advisory Committee:

- Welcomed two new members, bringing active membership to six.
- Supported establishment of the provincial-municipal Rural Roads Committee.
- Advanced work related to tax flexibility for homes rebuilt after natural disasters.
- Coordinated with partners to develop model by-law supports for municipalities.

### MUNICIPAL AUTONOMY

The Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee:

- Welcomed a new member.
- Continued advancing municipal modernization as a core advocacy priority.
- Examined evolving provincial authorities and impacts on municipal discretion.
- Promoted stronger conditions for collaboration across orders of government.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Advisory Committee:

- Advanced Vulnerable Persons Registries as an advocacy priority, contributing to their inclusion in provincial regulations.
- Continued monitoring progress on rural cellular coverage and emergency preparedness.
- Supported work related to designating telecommunications companies as critical service providers.
- Continued engagement with the Province on emergency preparedness regulations and implementation.
- Continued participation on CAO Round Table discussions hosted by the Department of Emergency Management.



*River Phillip – Municipality of Cumberland – lupins*

## Climate & Environment Initiatives

In 2025, with support from the Province, NSFM established a Policy Advisor, Environment & Climate Change position to strengthen support for municipalities navigating climate change and environment issues.

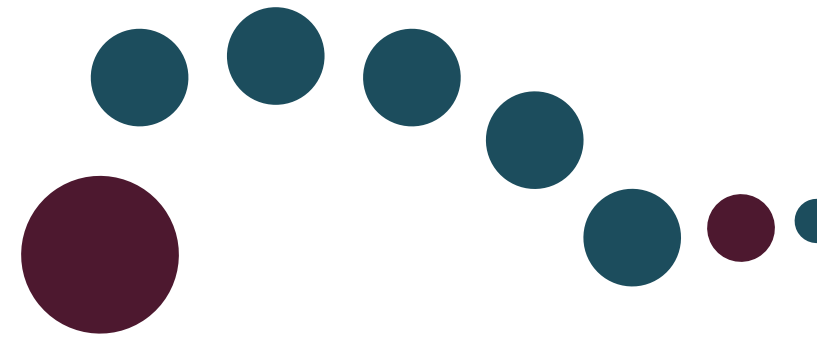
Municipal climate and environmental priorities:

- Began development of an inventory of municipal climate initiatives.
- Supported awareness of municipal action related to resilience, energy, and transportation.
- Advanced implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility, a longstanding advocacy priority.
- Continued participation on the Environment and Climate Change Minister's Round Table on Environment & Sustainability.

## Federal Government Engagement

Federal advocacy priorities:

- Provided municipal input on offshore wind development.
- Conducted federal advocacy in partnership with the Atlantic municipal associations of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on shared priorities.
- Supported strategic federal engagement by the President and Board of Directors.



## Fire Prevention

NSFM continued supporting municipalities through:

- Joint advocacy with AMANS during the fire services review.
- Analysis and response to the FSANS Review Report.
- Advocacy and consultation related to Bill 186 and the evolving fire services model.
- Continued calls for clarity on resources and implementation supports.



*Northern Yellow Warbler*

## Natural Resources & Clean Energy

In 2025, with support from the Province, NSFM established a Policy Advisor, Economics & Natural Resources position to strengthen support for municipalities navigating resource and clean energy development.

Progress included:

- Engaged with municipalities and external partners to identify opportunities and barriers.
- Improved understanding of municipal interests related to resource development.
- Explored local benefit opportunities tied to economic growth.
- Planned for a member survey to inform the next phase of this work.

## Policing

NSFM continued advocating for municipal interests related to policing by:

- Engaged members following the provincial policing review.
- Convened all-member discussions with the Minister of Justice.
- Advanced municipal priorities through the RCMP Contract Management Committee.
- Supported members with information and analysis related to policing governance and costs.

## Provincial Budget 2026–27

NSFM reviewed and monitored the Province’s 2026–27 Budget, Defending Nova Scotia, including implications for municipalities.

Budget highlights included:

- A projected deficit of \$1.24 billion for 2026–27.
- Projected revenues of \$17.3 billion and expenses of \$18.9 billion.
- Forecast deficits declining over a four-year horizon.
- A planned reduction in civil service positions, focused primarily on management and administrative functions.
- Cuts to tourism staff may impact municipalities that rely on tourism for their local economies.
- Significant budget cuts were made to Environment and Climate Change, particularly in the areas of Sustainability and Applied Science, Climate Change Fund, and Grants and Contributions.
- In addition, the Province announced that several infrastructure programs delivered by Municipal Affairs, including the Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP), Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP), Municipal Innovation Program (MIP), and Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID) will end in 2026-27.

NSFM continued to assess potential municipal impacts arising from fiscal and policy directions.



*Shubenacadie River – Tidal Bore Rafting – Town of Truro*



Salt Marsh Trail – Halifax Regional Municipality

## FUND ADMINISTRATION

### Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)

- A renewed 10-year Administrative Agreement (2024–2034) came into effect, introducing an expanded focus on enabling housing development.
- The Province executed Municipal Funding Agreements with all 49 municipalities and re-engaged NSFM to support communications in alignment with federal requirements.
- The federal government committed \$318.8 million to Nova Scotia for 2024–2029 under the renewed framework.
- A dedicated Program Coordinator was hired in January 2026 to strengthen implementation, communications, and reporting.
- Early progress included development of communications guidance, project spotlights, and a 2026–27 workplan aligned with the Province’s Joint Communications Approach.

## Coastal Planning Support Program

Through support from the Province, the Coastal Land Use Planning Coordinator advanced municipal capacity through:

- Municipal engagement and sector partnerships.
- Support for the Coastal Planning Support Program.
- Procurement of a Coastal Policy Decision-Making Guide.
- Ongoing advocacy related to the Coastal Protection Act and associated tools.

NSFM continued regular engagement with the Province to advance the provincial action plan and coordinate support for municipalities.

## Municipal Flood Adaptation Project

The Municipal Flood Adaptation Project advanced several key deliverables, including:

- Completion of the Research and Practice Report: Municipal Flood Adaptation in Nova Scotia.
- Development of a digital knowledge-sharing platform and Practitioner’s Corner.
- Launch of quarterly technical webinars.
- Development of workshops on flood adaptation policy options for elected officials.
- Advancement of equity-focused guidance related to stormwater management.

## Fund Navigation

NSFM’s Funding Navigation program continued to expand supports for municipalities and community organizations.

Highlights included:

- Responded to 94 funding inquiries.
- Published articles and delivered webinars supporting grant access and funding awareness.
- Launched the Nova Scotia Funding Portal in November 2025.
- Achieved strong engagement through high portal usage (approx. 10,000 monthly views and 3,000 unique visitors), newsletter open rates (+60%), and weekly funding updates.
- Expanded promotion through social media and video resources.

The Funding Portal has become a key resource supporting municipalities in identifying and accessing funding opportunities.



Cherry Hill Beach – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

## Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (SCCF)

The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund (SCCF) continued supporting community-led climate action across Nova Scotia through investments in projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen community resilience to climate change.

Administered by NSFM, the fund supported a broad range of initiatives, including renewable energy, public education, adaptation planning, and ecosystem restoration, helping communities advance locally identified climate priorities.

Eligible recipients include municipalities, First Nations, post-secondary institutions, and registered non-profit organizations active in Nova Scotia.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2025–26

Building on the momentum of the program’s first two funding rounds, SCCF advanced several key milestones during 2025–26.

#### THIRD FUNDING ROUND DELIVERED

NSFM delivered the third funding round in winter 2025, receiving 80 applications requesting \$26.9 million in funding.

Program delivery highlights included:

- A 24-member Technical Advisory Committee reviewed all applications, with each submission independently assessed by two reviewers.
- Final scoring was informed through four days of staff-led consensus review.
- Results were compiled into a portfolio for ministerial consideration.
- Twenty-one projects were approved for funding in November 2025.

#### ONGOING PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

NSFM continued supporting grant recipients and overseeing projects approved under earlier rounds, including:

- 37 projects completed.
- 15 projects underway.
- 28 project amendments processed.

Program administration continued in close coordination with the Province of Nova Scotia, including support for funding announcements and recipient communications.



Municipality of Barrington – Night Camping (Jive Photography)

## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Strengthening engagement with members remained central to NSFM’s work in 2025. Through responsive communications, targeted outreach, and expanded learning opportunities, municipal leaders had timely access to information, practical tools, and meaningful opportunities to connect, collaborate, and share perspectives. Communications platforms, educational programming, and events continued to support municipal leadership and advance priorities shaping communities across Nova Scotia.

### Conferences & Events

#### KEN SIMPSON MEMORIAL CONFERENCE FUND

NSFM established the Ken Simpson Memorial Conference Fund to support, on an annual basis, two elected officials to attend the Fall Conference, helping strengthen accessibility to professional development opportunities.

#### SPRING & FALL CONFERENCES

NSFM delivered two highly successful conferences focused on networking, education, and collaboration.

The Spring Conference was held in Truro under the theme *The Changing Landscape of Municipalities*, the conference saw strong attendance and increased sponsorship engagement. (182 attendees)

The Fall Conference was held in Halifax under the theme *Local Focus, Lasting Impact*, the conference featured record attendance since pre-COVID, a refreshed venue format that received strong member feedback, expanded exhibit space, and a new pre-conference workshop. (341 attendees)

### Learning & Professional Development

NSFM expanded member education through a robust series of webinars, Lunch & Learns, and workshops addressing emerging municipal issues and governance priorities.

Topics included:

- Economic trends impacting municipalities.
- Deer governance and human-wildlife coexistence.
- Community health and public engagement.
- Workplace harassment regulations.
- Renewable energy and environmental priorities.
- Air quality and environmental stewardship.
- Equity, accessibility, and inclusion.
- Mental wellness and community wellbeing.

A new educational workshop series launched in March 2026 with the inaugural session, *Meetings that Matter: Governance, Strategy, and Public Trust*.

### Member Engagement Opportunities

An all-member in-person meeting on policing was held in August 2025, providing members with a dedicated forum to discuss a key advocacy priority directly with provincial partners.

With support from the Department of Municipal Affairs, NSFM also advanced development of two new online governance modules:

- The Role of Council and the CAO.
- Evaluating Your CAO.

### Municipal Code of Conduct Education

NSFM supported implementation of the Municipal Code of Conduct through development and rollout of an online learning module, complemented by in-person training and virtual sessions leading up to launch. Participation and completion rates among municipalities and villages was strong, and member feedback is informing future enhancements.

## Publications & Digital Communications

### ATLANTIC MUNICIPAL MAGAZINE

Published twice in 2025, in partnership with the Atlantic municipal associations of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, the magazine highlighted regional municipal leadership, collaboration, and innovation, including features on Indigenous partnerships, energy transition, and Atlantic municipal cooperation.

### MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

NSFM continued strengthening the profile of municipalities through proactive media engagement and strategic communications.

Media coverage highlighted municipal perspectives on:

- Governance and legislative issues.
- Climate resilience and emergency preparedness.
- Resource development.
- Taxation and infrastructure.
- Energy and economic issues.

Through consistent outreach and timely commentary, NSFM amplified municipal priorities and strengthened the voice of municipalities across Nova Scotia.

### MONDAY MEMO

The Monday Memo remained a key member communications tool, with:

- 50% average open rate.
- 12% average click-through rate.
- Highest annual open rate of 65%.
- Peak click-through engagement of 23%.

### MUNICIPAL OBSERVER

NSFM's biannual provincial magazine, *Municipal Observer*, continued to showcase member leadership, innovation, and emerging municipal issues, with feature coverage ranging from resilience and climate adaptation to leadership reflections and funding innovation.

### SOCIAL MEDIA & STORYTELLING

NSFM's social channels supported awareness and engagement through campaigns focused on:

- Committee recruitment.
- Elections and governance.
- Code of Conduct training.
- Funding awareness.
- Conference promotion.
- Municipal leadership storytelling.
- Advocacy initiatives, including the "What's Next" campaign.

### WEBSITE & DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

The NSFM website remained a critical information hub, with strong traffic throughout the year and sustained engagement across key resources and member services.

Website enhancements included:

- Refreshed advocacy and coastal planning content.
- Interactive mapping tools.
- Expanded member resource content.

These enhancements helped strengthen connections with members and improve access to information.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

NSFM continued delivering value-added programs and services that support members, strengthen organizational sustainability, and enhance municipal capacity.

### Carbon Surcharge Policy and Fund

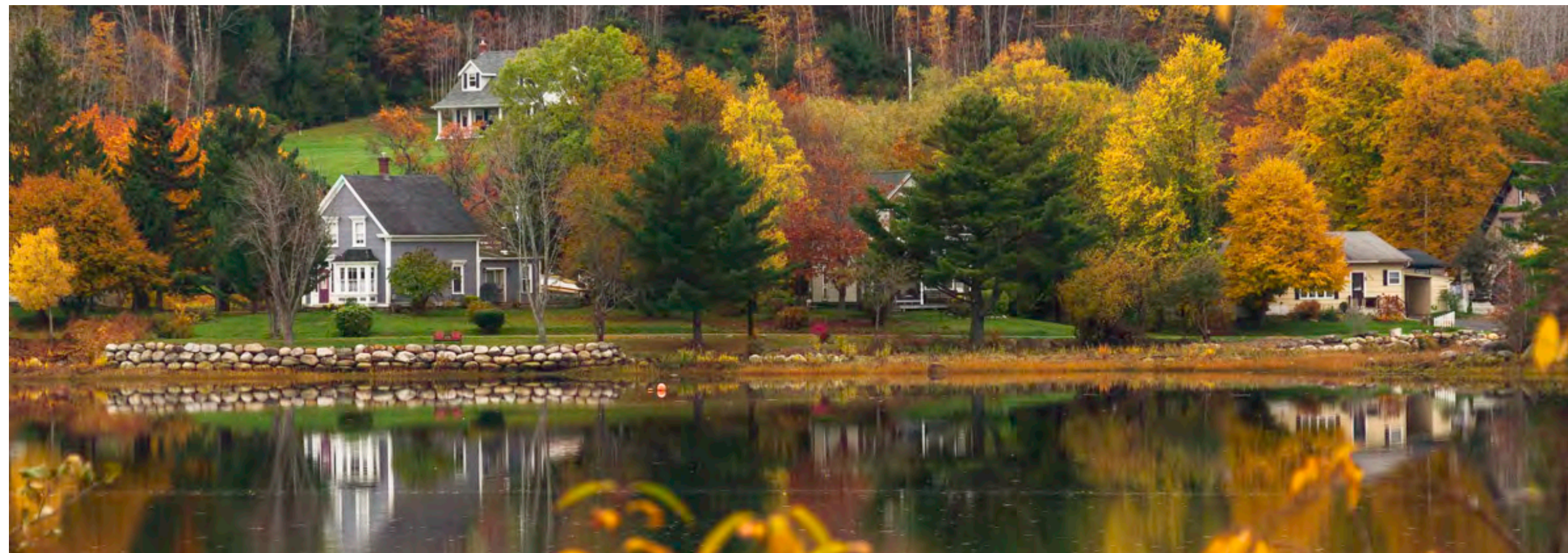
The Carbon Surcharge Fund continued supporting local municipal sustainability initiatives through conference registration contributions, reinforcing NSFM's commitment to climate action and environmental responsibility.

### Councillor, Employee, and Family Assistance Program

Members continued to have access to confidential counselling and wellbeing supports through the Employee and Family Assistance Program, offered through Telus Health, including mental health, financial, legal, wellness, and family supports.

### Fund Navigation Program

The Fund Navigation Program continued growing as a key support for municipalities and community organizations. With the launch of the enhanced Funding Portal in 2025, members gained improved access to a searchable, user-friendly platform designed to streamline grant discovery and support stronger communities.



Dayspring – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg – Yellow Reflection (Paul H. Williams)

## Group Benefits Program

NSFM’s Group Benefits Program continued serving approximately 2,000 members through a comprehensive and cost-effective benefits model supported by strong committee oversight, educational programming, and member engagement.

Highlights included:

- Four committee meetings held.
- Multiple educational webinars delivered.
- Two in-person Group Benefits Road Shows presented.

## Group Purchasing and Procurement Program

Through partnerships with [Canoe Procurement](#) and [Sourcewell](#), members continued accessing procurement tools, vendor options, and compliant purchasing solutions, supported by webinars and supplier engagement. NSFM continued promoting procurement opportunities through Canoe Procurement Group and Sourcewell, including posting ten tenders through the provincial procurement portal.

## Home and Auto Insurance Program

Through BrokerLink, members continued accessing preferred rates and a wide range of personal insurance products as part of this value-added member benefit.

## HR Services

Through [HR Covered](#), members continued accessing HR advisory services, policy supports, training, and practical resources designed to strengthen municipal workplace practices.

## HST Offset Program

The HST Offset Program continued helping reduce municipal costs, with approximately \$6 million distributed annually.

## Municipal Insurance Program

The Municipal Insurance Program continued providing specialized, stable commercial, casualty, and property insurance coverage supported by:

- Strong committee oversight.
- Risk management education.
- Broad municipal participation.
- Extensive webinar programming on climate resilience, cyber risk, asset protection and liability management.

## Municipal Wellness Program

Through the Municipal Wellness Program, NSFM and AMANS continued supporting healthier municipal workplaces through initiatives focused on:

- Financial health.
- Mental health.
- Physical health.
- Workplace health.
- Social connection.

The program continued offering resources, activities and tools that support healthier municipal workplace cultures across Nova Scotia.

## Prevention Academy

[Strong Cities Network](#) is a global network of municipalities committed to addressing all forms of hate, extremism, and polarization. In 2025, [Prevention Academy Canada](#) was launched. The purpose of this initiative was to address national and global issues that have put considerable strain on Canadian municipalities and local officials facing rising levels of hate, discrimination, division, and social polarization in their communities. NSFM participated in this program and five municipal leaders were enrolled. Four of the municipal leaders attended the Strong Cities Summit in Toronto, in December 2025. Learn more about the program by viewing the [Prevention Academy Video](#).

## Travel and Member Benefits

Members continued benefiting from:

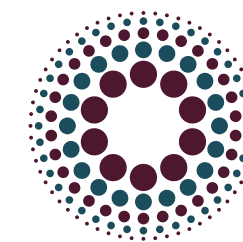
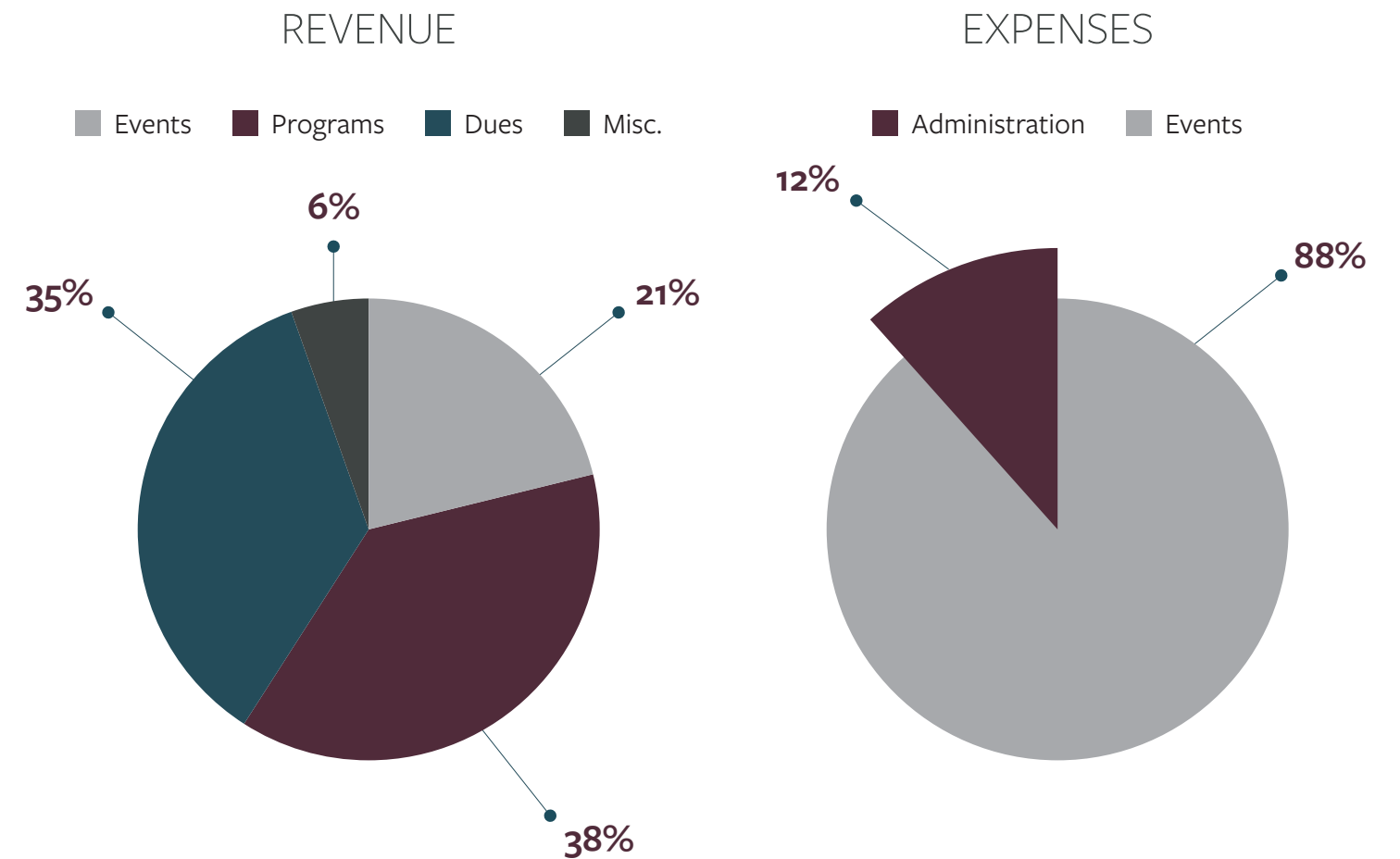
- Park’N Fly discount program.
- Preferred hotel rates.
- Additional member savings opportunities.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

NSFM’s revenue sources include membership fees, program contributions, and conference proceeds. As part of the transition to a new fiscal year ending March 31, this report reflects two financial reporting periods: January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025, and April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Full financial results for both periods will be presented in the audited financial statements, which will be made available at the Annual General Meeting. Please see the visuals below for the most recent, and complete, fiscal year April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

For additional information or clarification on the content provided, please contact the NSFM Office.



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES**



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Better government. Stronger communities.**