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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



**NSFM 2026
SPRING
CONFERENCE**

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

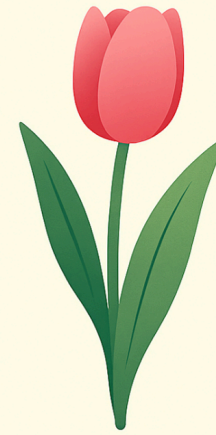
Last call to register!

NSFM Spring Conference 2026

Registration closes at
12:00 p.m. on April 23

Program change: Museums
and Libraries update

[Register now](#)



There's still time to join colleagues from across the province at the NSFM Spring Conference 2026—but not for long. Registration closes at 12:00 p.m. on April 23 and this is our final reminder to secure your spot.

Taking place April 29 – May 1, the Spring Conference offers timely updates, sector-relevant discussions, and valuable opportunities to connect with peers and provincial partners. The program is packed with informative sessions designed to support municipalities as they navigate current and emerging issues.

Important Program Update

Please note a change to the conference agenda:

- The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage will now be presenting an update on Museums and Libraries
- April 30 at 10:20 a.m.
- This session replaces the previously scheduled update from the Department of Municipal Affairs

Haven't registered yet? Now is the time.

Review the full, updated program and register before the deadline: Don't miss this opportunity to take part in

We hope to see you there!

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Public Safety

On April 1, the Public Safety Advisory Committee received an update from the Department of Emergency Management on the development of municipal Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registries (VVPRs), which are intended to support prioritized response for residents during power outages and emergency events.

Advocated for by NSFM since February 2, 2024, VVPRs continue to advance, with provincial staff confirming that IT platform options are currently under review and eligibility criteria are in development.

This progress will support municipalities in meeting newly enacted standards requiring VVPR by-laws as part of municipal Emergency Management Programs. For more information, contact NSFM at info@nsfm.ca.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Rural Roads Committee

The NSFM Board has approved the appointment of the following elected officials to serve on the Rural Roads Committee:

- Cecil Clarke, Mayor, Cape Breton Regional Municipality
- Carl MacPhee, Councillor, Municipality of East Hants
- Scott Christian, Mayor, Regional Municipality of Queens
- Yvon LeBlanc, Warden, Municipality of Clare

In addition, the AMANS Board recently appointed Danny Jackson and Scott Conrod to serve on the Committee.

- Questions about the Committee? elanni@nsfm.ca

The recent announcement from the Government of Canada on the \$51B Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) will bring additional funding to infrastructure projects across the country, and includes a name change for the **Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)** to the **Build Communities Strong Fund – Community Stream**. The BCSF adds two additional streams with a \$17.2B Provincial and Territorial stream and a \$6B Direct Delivery stream, on top of the \$27.8B allocated to the Community Stream. The [Halifax Regional Municipality](#) and the [Town of Bridgewater](#) were two of the municipalities awarded funding as part of the first series of 13 projects receiving funding through the Direct Delivery stream of the BCSF.

- [BCSF Program Press Release](#)
- [BCSF Website](#)
- More information: tverus@nsfm.ca

Employment Opportunity

Please see below for the following job opportunity for the Town of Westville.

- Position: Chief Administrative Officer
- Deadline: April 24
- Posting Detail: [Click here](#)
- Questions: lennie.white@westville.ca

Local Salmon Conservation Efforts: Global Recognition

The [Cheticamp River Salmon Association](#) (CRSA) is celebrating [international recognition](#) of its long-standing conservation partnership with Parks Canada, following a major designation from the United Nations. In December 2025, Parks Canada's salmon conservation program was named a World Restoration Flagship. The designation recognizes work underway since 2010 in seven national parks, including Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This international recognition from the UN enables the CRSA to continue and expand its conservation work over the years. [Funding awarded in 2023](#) from the NSFM's [Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund](#) contributed to this project.

- More information: aucoinrene@gmail.com

Stop-Work Order Highlight Compliance Failures

compliance. This marks the second stop-work order at the facility in less than two years and follows longstanding concerns about safety practices, including issues raised after a fatal training incident in 2019. [This case](#) underscores the importance of maintaining up-to-date safety systems, equipment inspections, and documentation. Regulators are willing to halt operations where compliance gaps persist, reinforcing that proactive safety management and a strong safety culture are critical for all employers.

[HR Covered](#) is a program partner of NSFM. Reach out to the advisory team if you need more information on this item, as well as many other great HR resources offered at **no-charge** to municipal units in NS. More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

Pictou County Summit

The Pictou County Climate Summit will take place May 29-30 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre, bringing together municipal leaders and staff, organizations, businesses, and community members to strengthen collaboration and accelerate collective climate action across the region. Hosted by the Pictou County Partnership in collaboration with the Municipality of Pictou County, Pictou Landing First Nation, and the towns of New Glasgow, Pictou, Stellarton, Trenton, and Westville, the 2026 Climate Summit builds on the momentum of the 2023 event led by Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network.

- Sign up to learn more and receive updates [here](#)
- More info: emily.hodgson@townofpictou.ca

Municipal Water Resiliency & Planning Symposium

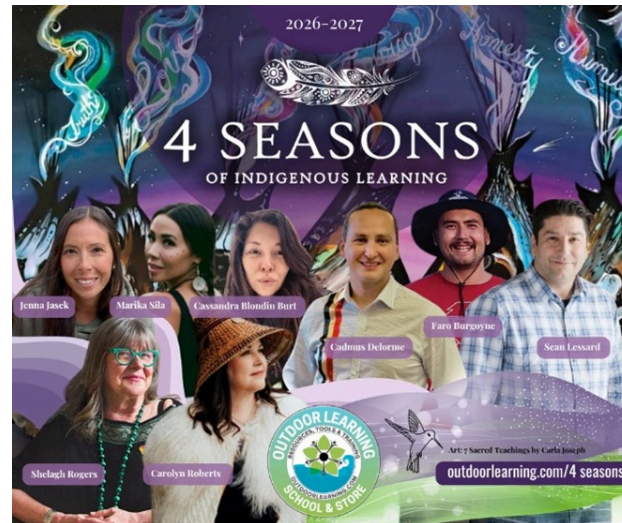
The Municipal Water Resiliency & Planning Symposium will take place on May 12 at the Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building at Dalhousie University, with an online hybrid option via Teams available. This day-long session will bring together municipal leaders, planners, engineers, utilities professionals, and provincial representatives to discuss shared challenges related to water resource management, planning, climate change, and growth. Hosted by Dalhousie's School of Planning and Centre for Water Resources Studies, the symposium aims to share knowledge and strengthen climate-resilient water planning and management.

- Free registration: [here](#)

Indigenous Language Learning Courses

The [Outdoor Learning School & Store](#) is offering two upcoming courses that municipal leaders and staff will find valuable and interesting, especially as many organizations move along a path towards truth and reconciliation.

- September 2026: [Mi'kmaw Introductory Language Course](#)
- Fall 2026: [4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning Course](#)
- More information: info@outdoorlearning.com



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Public Safety Advisory Committee

[The Public Safety Advisory Committee](#) met on April 1. The Department of Emergency Management provided the Committee with an update on the development of the municipal Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR). The registry would ensure residents in need of a prioritized response during power outages or emergency events and its creation is an advocacy priority for NSF. The update from provincial staff informed Committee members that IT platforms for supporting VVPRs are being reviewed. Specific criteria outlining eligibility for registration are in development. This

To learn more about engaging with any of the five [NSFM's Advisory Committees](#).

NEWS

[CBRM councillor calls for review of volunteer firefighter stipends](#)

[CBRM instituting new fees at the dump for people bringing in household waste](#)

[Construction budget for Halifax's Windsor Street exchange jumps \\$30M](#)

[Emergency exit for Upper Tantallon coming this year](#)

[Tenants of Truro-area landlord repeatedly left without water, heat](#)

[Town bans 'public urinating and defecating'](#)

FUNDING

Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The Funding Portal is a joint initiative of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the [Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities](#). Our mission is simple: make finding and applying for grants easy and efficient — so you can focus on building stronger communities. nsfunding.ca.

PROGRAMS

New Canoe Outreach Rep

Do you need help finding cost-effective products and services and would you like to learn more about using [Canoe Procurement](#)? Stephanie Morris the new member outreach representative for Nova Scotia municipal units and is your direct contact for the Canoe program. In this role, Stephanie helps municipal units and non-profits find time and cost-saving benefits on a wide variety of municipal needs. She also provides educational sessions and support to help members navigate the

- Contact: stephaniem@canoeprocurement.ca or (343) 344-4162

Agricultural Supply

Regardless of whether your organization has direct agricultural operations or not, reliable agricultural vehicles are core assets for many. Partnering with a variety of approved suppliers available across the country, the [NSFM/Canoe Agricultural Equipment Program](#) can help you source the equipment you need. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Grounds Maintenance

From highway ditch care to greenspace maintenance, tractors to wide-area flail mowers, the [NSFM/Canoe Grounds Maintenance Program](#) has partnered with industry leaders to bring innovative solutions to your landscaping challenges. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Equipment Breakdown for Municipalities

Municipalities of all sizes rely on critical equipment to deliver essential services. With aging infrastructure, tight budgets, and public safety on the line, having the right coverage is critical. Have you considered [equipment breakdown insurance coverage](#), designed specifically for the public sector and helping municipal units to:

- respond quickly to unexpected equipment failures
- cover costs related to repair, replacement, and recover
- access expert support to minimize operational disruption
- protect against service interruption and financial strain

This information is presented courtesy of the **NSFM Commercial Insurance Program**. Program information: imorrison@nsfm.ca

NSFM Launches Krown Discount

NSFM is pleased to announce the following discount program for elected leaders and staff working within the broader municipal sector in Nova Scotia. [Krown](#) and NSFM present the following discount program on services:

- 15% off discount on all Krown Vehicle Products
- Offer valid for all elected leaders, staff, and their friends and family

Click [Krown Discount Program](#) for more program information, including the Dealer Promo Code to access your benefit.

Insurance Tips: RV Season

Are you ready for camping season? The warmer weather is just around the corner and we could not be more excited! Besides packing your RV with S'mores kits and bug spray, you need to make sure your vehicle is safe and ready for adventures. We have put together some tips to help you [prep your RV for camping season](#) and enjoy a safe and worry-free camping season.

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on your **personal home and auto insurance** through BrokerLink's group insurance program? [More information.](#)

WEBINARS

2026 Marketing Campaign: "Your Nova Scotia Playlist"

The 2026 Tourism NS marketing campaign "[Your Nova Scotia Playlist](#)" is now live in all markets. This year, the campaign is play on words with "Canada's Ocean Playground". We are encouraging travellers to find their ideal playlist including compelling experiences and attractions, set to the sounds of NS's musical talent. To learn more about this year's marketing activities and how you can get involved, join our annual industry webinar on April 22 @ 10 am where we will share campaign details and programming opportunities for partners across the province.

- [Register here](#)
- More information: Joann.Fitzgerald@novascotia.ca

Canada's Approach to Online Harm Policy

As online harms continue to impact communities, Canada's approach to addressing these challenges spans multiple policy, legislative, and regulatory pathways. This webinar will provide an overview of the broader federal policy and governance landscape around online harms, including illegal and harmful content, behaviours, and the ways online platforms and technologies can amplify or enable harm. The

municipalities navigate this federal policy landscape, given their proximity to community-level impacts and their jurisdictional and resource constraints.

- April 22 @ 2 pm
- [Register here](#)
- Presented by the [Strong Cities Network Prevention Academy Canada](#)

Mental Health in Municipal Leadership - Webinar Series

The [Municipal Wellness Program](#) was established in 2014 and encourages Nova Scotia municipalities to create healthy workplace environments and promote positive health and wellbeing for all municipal employees and elected officials. Join us during **Mental Health Awareness Month** for an engaging series of one-hour webinars focused on mental health in municipal leadership.

- April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20 @ 11:00 am
- [Session Website](#)
- [Register here](#)
- More info: spellerin@amans.ca

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**

[Fall/Winter Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for the **Atlantic Region of Municipalities**



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