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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

Call for Municipal Success Stories

Did your municipality try something new this year that made a real impact in your community? NSFM will be holding a Municipal Success Stories the Fall Conference and we are looking for fresh examples to share. The session will be held November 5 and will highlight a selection of municipal success stories from across the province.

communities.

Do you have a success story to share? Share what your municipality is proud of and what others can learn from and submit your ideas that demonstrate what is working across our municipalities.

- Submissions due: July 20
- Submission reviewed by Fall Conference Planning Committee
- More info: jwebber@nsfm.ca

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Beyond the Ballot – Rethinking Women's Inclusion in Municipal Politics

Join NSFM on July 16 from 12:00-1:00 pm for a Lunch and Learn exploring the experiences of women in municipal politics and the factors that influence their decision to remain in or leave elected office. This session will examine barriers and challenges faced by women in local government, their impact on re-election decisions, and potential policies and programs to support greater retention of women in municipal leadership.

Presenter: Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women and Politics and Assistant Professor, Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University

To Register: [Click Here.](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Survey: Coastal Policy Decision Making Guide

NSFM is developing a plain-language, step-by-step Coastal Policy Decision-Making Guide and checklist to help municipal councils and staff move forward with greater confidence on coastal issues such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. We are seeking your input in a survey that gathers your experience and requirements so the guide is genuinely useful, whether your municipality is just getting started or building

- Results will only be reported in aggregate form
- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
- [Access survey here](#)
- Survey deadline: July 31
- More information: coastal@nsfm.ca

NSFM Listserv: Coming Soon...Sign Up Now!

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv designed to connect and support Nova Scotia's broader municipal sector. Participation is **free** and **open** to **municipal leaders and staff** across the province.

The listserv will:

- Support the exchange of information related to municipal practices and procedures
- Encourage collaboration and cooperation among municipal units
- Foster a community of shared interests across the municipal sector
- Provide a forum to share ideas, requests for information, best practices, and knowledge
- Serve as a key communication channel for the municipal sector
- Share relevant NSFM news, programs, services, and professional development opportunities

Sign up for the listserv [here](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

NS Mental Wellness Survey: Child, Youth, & Family Edition

Our survey last year closed with an incredible result for adults across the province. Now, we are reopening our [child and youth surveys](#) to gather more data around the mental health needs of children, youth, and families. This version of the survey asks questions about children (4-12) (caregiver reported) and youth (13-17) (youth or caregiver reported). Child and youth mental health is more important than ever and your answers help guide programs and policies that support mental wellness across NS. The survey is available in multiple languages web-based, in print, or via phone. Kindly circulate in your networks. The survey is made possible through support from the NS Office of Addictions & Mental Health.

More information:

- Visit www.wellnssurvey.ca
- Connect on [Instagram](#)

BCSF COMMUNITY STREAM SPOTLIGHT

Town of Oxford: Foundry Street Water Main

Replacing a water main may not seem like an exciting infrastructure project, but with just this one BCSF Community stream project, the Town of Oxford solved several problems and created capacity for future housing.

One stretch of Foundry Street in Oxford experienced 10 water main leaks over an 18-month period. This caused low water pressure, poor water quality, traffic disruptions and frustrated residents. Town staff resources were stretched and demoralized from repeatedly fixing a crumbling undersized pipe dating back to 1970. Meanwhile, with most of Oxford situated within a floodplain, the sites for new home builds were limited. But part of Foundry Street was outside the floodplain, and perfect for future builds – if there was only water capacity.

With BCSF Community stream funds able to be ‘stacked’ with other sources, Oxford was able to improve water quality and quality of life while adding capacity for 10 new housing units. Over a kilometer of water main and pavement were replaced on Foundry Street and River Avenue without undue burden on the tax-paying residents of the town.

Read more here: [2026 BCSF Community stream Spotlight - Town of Oxford: Foundry Street Water Main](#)

NEWS

[Chester opens new library branch as other Nova Scotia communities face closures](#)
[Government, library officials to meet again as Annapolis Valley branch closures loom](#)
[Halifax council opts to pause demolition plan for Memorial Library](#)
[Kentville mayor: town should have been included before library chosen for closure](#)
[Library, residential development in Sydney delayed — again](#)
[‘Overwhelming’: Slew of donations comes in after fatal Bridgewater fire](#)

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](#).

Funding Support Available

Looking for funding for an upcoming project? The NSFM Fund Navigation Program provides municipalities with tools and support to navigate available funding opportunities. Browse the Funding Portal or reach out to fundnavigator@nsfm.ca.

New opportunities added to the portal this week:

- [Energy Innovation Program, Innovation Ecosystem Enablers: Process and Technology Testing Facilities](#): Natural Resources Canada funding for shared-use energy technology testing and validation facilities that strengthen Canada's clean energy innovation ecosystem and accelerate commercialization.
- [Event and Youth Initiative Grants](#): Canadian Race Relations Foundation funding of up to \$10,000 for community events and youth-led or focused initiatives that promote anti-racism, cultural diversity, inclusion, intercultural dialogue, and community capacity-building.

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Updated Supplier List: June 2026

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the [June Supplier Update](#). This month's awards span:

- Auto & truck parts

- Food services and more

Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Road Maintenance

Reliable roads are the vital arteries of modern society. Keeping them clear and whole requires a lot of hard work. With the [NSFM/Canoe Road Maintenance Program](#), municipal units can procure some of the best paving vehicles at some of the best pricing in North America to stay on top of your infrastructure. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Sports Arena Supply

Arenas are the hub of athletic and cultural participation in our communities, but require a wide range of outfitting and maintenance considerations. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Sports Arena Supply Program](#), municipal units get access to supplies and services from the experts specifically for sporting facilities for flooring, ice conditioning, safety, inspections, and more. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Mental Health Costs: 46 Working Days Per Employee

A [Manulife Canada report released in May](#) reveals that mental fatigue and burnout are costing Canadian employers the equivalent of 46 working days per employee, per year. Mental health conditions are now the leading driver of disability claims in Canada. Only 40% of employees feel their employer takes meaningful action on mental health, despite 80% of employers believing they do. Review your mental health supports and ask honestly: do your employees know about them and feel safe using them? Train managers to recognize early warning signs of burnout. If you do not have a formal mental health policy or access to an EAP, now is the time to act.

[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

If you use your personal vehicle for work, even just occasionally, it is important to understand what your car insurance actually covers. Many drivers assume that their personal car insurance will protect them no matter how they use their vehicle, but that's not always true. [Learn more.](#)

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on your **personal home and auto insurance** through BrokerLink's [group insurance program](#)? BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector.

BrokerLink
Insurance insights
Your trusted group partner

**BrokerLink**
Insurance

Park'N Fly Discount

The [NSFM/Park'N Fly Discount Program](#) is available for elected municipal leaders and municipal staff within the broader municipal sector. Under this program, you can receive an exclusive discount on the services of Park'N Fly for business or leisure travel at their Halifax Stanfield International Airport location and at six other locations across Canada. Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. **Park'N Fly offers a discount of up to 20% on airport parking and if you use the discount code, parking is 40% cheaper than parking in the airport lot.**

Krown Discount

[Krown](#) and NSFM offer a discount program on services offered by Krown, for the benefit of elected leaders and staff working within the broader municipal sector in Nova Scotia:

- 15% off discount on all Krown Vehicle Products
- Offer valid for all elected leaders, staff, and their friends and family
- Presentation of the Dealer Promo Code required

WEBINARS

Municipal Info Session: Onshore Wind Energy in Nova Scotia

NSFM, in partnership with the Department of Energy, is hosting a session for municipalities on onshore wind energy in Nova Scotia. The webinar will cover wind procurement, project development, legislation, and how projects interact with municipal governments. The Department of Energy will also speak to the 2026 Green Choice Wind Energy Procurement, including the Request for Proposals and project selection process.

Event Details

Date: July 15

Time: 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Register: [here](#)

Climate Adaptation Webinars for Municipal Staff

The University of Waterloo's Climate Institute is offering two free webinars this July for municipal staff and elected officials. Topics include accounting and finance, health and well-being, nature-based solutions, engineering, governance, and planning to support local climate resilience.

Event Details

Date/Time #1: July 15 | 1–2 pm (EST)

Date/Time #2: July 21 | 1–2 pm (EST)

Learn More & Register: [here](#)

Recap: Calculating Insurance Premiums (A.K.A. What You Need to Know)

NSFM members recently participated in a Lunch and Learn session with Peter Fraser of Gallagher, exploring how municipal insurance premiums are calculated and the factors that influence costs. Topics included claims history, deductibles, asset values, coverage levels, market conditions, and risk management practices.

The session provided practical insights into how municipalities can better understand and manage insurance costs as part of their overall risk management

Recap: Land for Housing Program

The province launched the Land for Housing Program to increase housing supply by making provincially owned land available for residential development. Since many municipalities also hold land that could support housing, the province is now exploring a Municipal Partnership Stream to help support municipalities in bringing forward municipally owned sites. Did you miss the recent webinar presented by NSFM and the Province of NS on the **Land for Housing Program – Municipal Partnership Stream**? You can view the webinar [here](#).

RESOURCES

[Summer Municipal Observer](#)

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

[Spring/Summer Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

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



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