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# Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

## COASTAL PLANNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

### Coastal Planning Support Program

Just a reminder that this program has launched and applications will be accepted until February 11, 2026. The program will fund consultants to help municipalities with coastal land use planning, including:

- Interpreting coastal and climate data to guide safe development
- Supporting collaboration and decision-making
- Assisting with public engagement and communications
- Providing guidance for coordinated implementation
- Adoption of coastal strategies and bylaws (including integration of example bylaw text provided by Environment & Climate Change)

**More information:** [coastal@nsfm.ca](mailto:coastal@nsfm.ca)

**Learn more and apply today:** [Application Guide](#) & [Application Form](#)

Funding of \$1 million for the Coastal Planning Support Program is provided by the Government of Nova Scotia under [The Future of Nova Scotia's Coastline: A plan to protect people, homes and nature from climate change](#) and administered by the [Department of Environment and Climate Change](#) (ECC).

## LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Join us on Wednesday January 14 (12:00 - 1:00 pm) for NSFM's Monthly Lunch & Learn on how to tailor your DEIA approach to fit your municipality. This session explores how municipalities can strengthen DEIA initiatives in ways that reflect their unique communities. Led by Shruti Gola Taraschi-Carr, the session highlights key responsibilities under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act and practical approaches to building on existing DEIA efforts.

**Guest Speakers** Shruti Gola Taraschi-Carr Director, Race Relations, Equity and Inclusion Office of Equity and Anti-Racism and Luke Power, Director of Community Engagement & Evaluation Office of Equity and Anti-Racism.

[Register here](#)

## AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### African Heritage Month 2026 – Municipal Participation Invited

The African Heritage Month Information Network and the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia invite Mayors and Wardens to participate in the 2026 African Heritage Month Provincial Launch on **January 27 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia.

Municipal leaders are encouraged to submit a **30-second video message** recognizing February as African Heritage Month. Videos will be compiled and featured during the provincial launch, highlighting a unified message of municipal support across Nova Scotia.

The 2026 theme, ***Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress***, underscores the importance of collective leadership in celebrating African Nova Scotian history, culture, and contributions.

**Submission deadline:** January 20, 2026

Videos may be emailed to [rgrosse@bccns.com](mailto:rgrosse@bccns.com)

## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Are you an elected municipal leader or a staff member looking to make an impact?

Joining an NSFM Advisory Committee allows you to:

- Build valuable connections
- Contribute to the direction of municipalities in Nova Scotia
- Learn how committees operate
- Share your expertise

NSFM is now accepting applications for the following Advisory Committees:

- [Climate Change Committee](#)
  - Two elected officials
  - One CAO
- [Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee](#)
  - One elected official
- [Municipal Infrastructure Committee](#)
  - Three elected officials
- [Municipal Autonomy Committee](#)
  - One elected official
  - One CAO

**To apply:** Submit an expression of interest outlining relevant experience to [imorrison@nsfm.ca](mailto:imorrison@nsfm.ca)

**Deadline:** January 16

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### Rural Development Action Plan – Public Consultation

The Government of Canada, through [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#), is seeking input to inform the development of a new **Rural Development Action Plan (RDAP)**. This public consultation aims to ensure the priorities and realities of rural communities across Canada are reflected in the plan.

Municipal leaders are encouraged to participate by completing the online questionnaire available on the [Rural Economic Development](#) webpage.

**Consultations close February 6, 2026.**

Air Canada is investigating a complaint that a flight attendant wore a [controversial pin as a political statement](#). The airline is reviewing the matter and noted that its uniform policy permits only a limited list of non-political pins. The incident highlights ongoing challenges for employers around political expression. Workplace experts note that employers should have clear, up-to-date dress codes, conduct policies, and social media guidelines to address political messaging, protect their reputation, and maintain a respectful environment, especially for client-facing roles.

[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](mailto:partnerships@hrcovered.com)

## HR Services

[HR Covered](#) is the largest Canadian-owned HR service provider in the country. They offer our municipal units HR experts who help make managing people and processes simple and cover all avenues, at a fraction of the cost. Backed by the extensive experience of certified and qualified HR leaders, HR Covered is the most sought after HR solution in the country. The following service offerings are available **for free** to all municipal units:

- [Register](#) for unlimited access to the HR Hub document library
- [Engaging webinars](#) on various HR related topics
- [Book a meeting](#) to get your **complementary policy manual** created today
- [Program information](#)
- More info: [partnerships@hrcovered.com](mailto:partnerships@hrcovered.com)

**HR Covered is a [program partner](#) of NSFM**

## NEWS

[Canadian homeowners urged to review winter insurance coverage as storm risks rise](#)  
[Halifax police board says use of force policy must prioritize de-escalation, training](#)  
[Halifax Water gets approval for rate hike](#)  
[N.S. announces \\$465M for major road, highway projects as part of five-year plan](#)

[Sewer and water bylaw scrapped by Inverness County](#)  
[Special election in Shelburne on February 21](#)

## FUNDING

### Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFM Funding Database is a centralized resource dedicated to our members to help find municipal funding opportunities. A monthly funding update will also be communicated, outlining deadlines and information sessions. The Municipal Funding Database is now a full **Funding Portal**. Visit the new portal: [nsfunding.ca](https://nsfunding.ca).

#### **New to the Portal: Electric Vehicle Funding Programs:**

[Electrify Nova Scotia MHZEV Rebate Program](#): Provincial rebates up to \$50,000 for medium and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles purchased or leased by NS municipalities, First Nations, and non-profit organizations.

**Deadline:** Applications accepted on a continuous basis

[Electric Vehicle Test Drives and Charging Education](#): Federal funding up to \$200,000 for national and regional outreach projects that increase public, industry, and local government knowledge about light-duty EV charging and ownership, with priority for projects in underserved regions, including Atlantic Canada.

**Deadline:** February 19, 2026

#### **Now Open:**

[Recreation Facility Development Grant](#): Provincial funding for recreation facility projects over \$30,000, including recreation centres, pools, rinks, athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, and large equipment. Includes the Rink Revitalization Fund for arena upgrades and repairs. Funding covers up to two-thirds of total project costs, to a maximum of \$150,000.

**Deadline:** February 14, 2026

#### **Information Sessions/Trainings:**

**Webinar: Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab:** The Co-operators Resilience Acceleration Lab is hosting an information webinar for municipalities interested in

**Date:** January 15, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 pm Atlantic

**Free registration/information:** Email [resilience@cooperators.ca](mailto:resilience@cooperators.ca)

**Municipal Learning Series: Climate Resilience in Service Delivery:** Free training for municipal staff, community leaders, and organizations on integrating climate resilience into service delivery. The series covers climate risk and vulnerability assessment, land use planning, and community engagement, with sessions delivered by CLIMAtlantic and practitioners in the field.

- **Climate Risk and Vulnerability | Workshop:**
  - January 21, 2026, 10:00-11:30 am – English
  - January 28, 2026, 10:00-11:30 am – French
  - Free registration: [Register here](#)
- **Municipal Service Delivery | Learning Sessions:**
  - February 12, 2026, 10:00–11:30 am
  - February 24, 2026, 10:00–11:30 am
  - **Free registration:** [Register here](#)

## FCM Funding Opportunities

FCM has you covered with the right type of project funding. Review the [grant page](#) for funding opportunities available for planning, studies, and pilot projects.

# PROGRAMS

## Truck Purchases

Whether you are transporting freight, construction materials, scrap, or hazardous goods, you need tough, reliable equipment. The [NSFM/Canoe Truck Program](#) provides plenty of choice and has you covered with trucks you can trust for even the biggest jobs, all sourced from top suppliers at the preferential rates. Get what you need through a simplified procurement process and competitive rates. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## Facility Assessment

suppliers, such as [Gordian](#), the [NSFM/Canoe Facility Assessment Program](#) provides the asset management expertise you need to operate efficiently. Strategic facilities capital planning goes beyond budgeting. It is about making informed decisions that align with your organization's priorities. However, without accurate facility condition data, prioritizing projects effectively becomes a challenge. Check out the latest [insight from Gordian](#) to learn how to obtain facility condition assessments for strategic capital planning. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## Rapid Response Vehicles

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides the [EMS Vehicles & Supply Program](#). Learn how the program is transforming emergency services for municipalities. State-of-the-art vehicles are designed to improve response times and operational efficiency, ensuring communities receive swift and effective assistance during emergencies.

## Insurance Tips: Worry Free Winter

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. Their dedicated group of insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value. [More information.](#)

We know that the only way to enjoy winter is to embrace it. We have put together some tips to help you have a worry-free winter. Refer to our guide on [Insurance Tips for a Worry Free Winter.](#)

## 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

## NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

### Cape Breton-Strait Region

The Cape Breton-Strait Region is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. This region consists of the following municipalities:

- Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- Municipality of the County of Inverness
- Municipality of the County of Richmond
- Municipality of the County of Victoria
- Municipality of the District of Guysborough
- Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
- Town of Antigonish
- Town of Mulgrave
- Town of Port Hawkesbury

The representatives on the Board of Directors for this region are:

- Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette  
[amanda.mombourquette@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:amanda.mombourquette@richmondcounty.ca)
- Deputy Warden John Dunbar [jdunbar@antigonishcounty.ns.ca](mailto:jdunbar@antigonishcounty.ns.ca)

## WEBINARS

### Responsible Use of AI in Government Operations

In this 90-minute webinar presented by the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#), you will be introduced to the evolving world of artificial intelligence in government operations. This interactive session explores how AI can streamline procurement processes, enhance transparency, and support ethical decision-making. Through real-world examples and guided demos, participants will learn how to use AI tools responsibly while aligning with public sector values and compliance frameworks.

- January 19 @ 2 pm (Atlantic)
- [Register Here](#)

## 2026 Construction Cost Trends

In 2025 metal costs whiplashed builders, framing lumber rose steadily, while concrete prices remained remarkably stable. What will 2026 construction costs bring? Join our [Gordian](#) experts to get:

- Forecasts on 2026 costs of concrete, lumber, steel, asphalt, and more
- Insights on impacts of tariffs and AI on the construction business
- Effects of projected labor shortages on 2026 projects
- January 22 @ 3 pm (Atlantic)
- [Register here](#)

[Gordian](#) is an approved supplier of the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#).

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Share Your Story  
Take the Survey  
Seed our Future



In February, [Engage Nova Scotia](#) and the [Canadian Index of Wellbeing](#) will be launching the largest Quality of Life population survey in North America. For municipal governments this represents an opportunity to gather data about topics impacting your residents. This 45-minute webinar will provide you with the tools and resources needed to promote survey participation in your region. [Register now and join us to learn more](#) about the survey, our promotional guide, how to host in-community events, and amplifying this important call to action.

**Webinar Dates:**

- Wednesday January 21 @ 12:00 Noon
- Wednesday January 21 @ 2:00 pm
- Friday January 23 @ 12 Noon
- Friday January 23 @ 2:00 pm
- More info: [mknezacek@engagenovascotia.ca](mailto:mknezacek@engagenovascotia.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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