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Monday Memo

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: MENTAL HEALTH

Public Safety - Policing

NSFM has been actively engaged in the provincial policing review and the foundational changes being proposed. Police are increasingly responding to complex situations related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness. The Province's proposed Layered Policing model includes the use of special constables and coordinated, multi-agency responses to mental health-related calls. NSFM supports the intent of these proposed changes, particularly the focus on coordinated responses to mental health-related calls and community safety. This approach aims to ensure those in need receive the most appropriate support, while enabling police officers to remain focused on core public safety and crime prevention responsibilities.

CALL FOR MUNICIPAL SUCCESS STORIES

Practical, Innovative Ideas That Make an Impact

NSFM is seeking affordable, adaptable success stories from municipalities to feature at the **2026 Spring Conference**. Selected submissions will be showcased during a dedicated session on **April 30 @ 9:00 am in Yarmouth**. We aim to highlight **2–3 new or ongoing initiatives** that demonstrate innovation and deliver meaningful results. Interested? Submit a short summary JWebber@nsfm.ca by **February 13 @ 4:30 pm.**

Help inspire peers and share ideas that other municipalities can take home and apply.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Integrating Meaningful Access from the Ground Up: Strategies for Preconstruction

Join us on Wednesday, February 18 (12:00 - 1:00 pm) for NSFM's Monthly Lunch & Learn. This session explores how to embed meaningful access into new construction projects from the outset. Using the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) program as a framework, we will discuss practical strategies for navigating complex design and development processes – including stakeholder alignment, legislative requirements, site constraints, and budget pressures.

Guest Speakers: Uli Egger Sr. Specialist, Strategic Partnerships & Outreach Rick Hansen Foundation and Henry Chen Principal Architect Hygge Architecture
Register here

CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND (CCBF)

CCBF Program Support Now Operational

In 2024, the provincial and federal governments signed a new 10-year agreement for the Canada Community-Building Fund. The new agreement places special emphasis on creating conditions for housing, while continuing to cover a full range of eligible infrastructure categories.

The agreement includes requirements around communicating CCBF projects to the public. To reduce the burden in meeting these requirements, NSFM has hired a CCBF Program Coordinator to serve as a resource and work with municipalities and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Do you have a CCBF project you would like to promote? Contact Charlene Boyce, CCBF Program Coordinator: cboyce@nsfm.ca or 902-483-6784.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

NS Quality of Life Survey

This month, 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. Nova Scotians can help make life better for themselves and their communities by completing the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey. Encourage your residents to complete the survey. More info: mknezacek@engagenovascotia.ca
Share your Story. Take the Survey. Seed our Future.

Study on Women in Local Government

In partnership with the NSFM, Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women and Politics (St. Francis Xavier University) and her team are studying women's experience in municipal officeholding, with a particular focus on their tenure in and exit from politics. Women politicians are leaving office earlier than men at other levels of Canadian government, but this has not been explored at the municipal level. The research is now entering the outreach phase in which women who previously held municipal office will be contacted to participate in confidential, open-ended interviews to discuss their experience in municipal government.

- More information: rwallace@stfx.ca

NEWS

CBRM says it added more than 900 of new residences in last 2 years

CB woman concerned about health, environment after chemical spill outside home
Council votes on cheaper bike lane options after lengthy debate
Glace Bay Heritage Museum seeks restoration funding
Halifax councillors to request provincial action on stricter dog policies
Halifax council sides with Uber on proposal for oversight of ride-hailing companies
N.S. spends $600K on study to protect Port of Digby from climate change
Nova Scotia African Heritage Month focusing on strength in unity
Queens approves $54.3-million capital plan with major infrastructure focus
New Glasgow revokes tax exemption for Viola's Place, considers relocating shelter

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.

New Funding Opportunities Added to the Portal:

- Festival and Community Event Development: Provincial funding up to $10,000 to help sustain, grow, or improve unique community festivals and events across Nova Scotia (for a specific project or component of an event). Open to municipalities, non-profits registered in NS, and Mi'kmaq communities.
  Deadline: February 27, 2026 @ 4:00 PM AST
- RBC Barrier Buster Grants Program: Grants up to $40,000 for permanent accessibility infrastructure improvements. For municipalities, charities, qualified donees, and incorporated non-profits. 40 grants available.
  Deadline: March 15, 2026 @ 11:00 PM PST

PROGRAMS

Stay Current with NSFM/Canoe Newsletter

The NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program delivers the latest supplier updates, program spotlights, and event opportunities directly to your inbox. Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep public sector and non-profit organizations informed on developments that save time, stretch budgets, and strengthen communities. Subscribe to Trader Newsletter here.

NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies

The NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies Program was launched in Fall 2024 and continues to add more participating stores across Canada. This program connects members with Canadian-owned Home Hardware Building Centres (HHBC) and Home Building Centres (HBC) across Canada, providing high-quality materials, from fencing and insulation to drywall, roofing, and hardware, all at competitive, member-exclusive pricing. Whether tackling routine maintenance or large-scale projects, members can streamline procurement while keeping investments local. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

Built for Canada

As a partner of the NSFM/Canoe Procurement Group, municipal units have access to the Built for Canada Program. By leveraging group purchasing power, cost-effective, compliant solutions to support your municipality's needs are available. Whether you are focused on 'Buy Canada' strategies, exploring alternatives, or balancing both, our diverse supplier network is ready to assist. We are working closely with suppliers expanding their Canadian offerings and encourage members to connect directly for the best options, because Canoe is built to support Canada's diverse needs. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**

WHMIS Canada Compliance Deadline

Updated WHMIS regulations became effective on December 15, 2025. These updates align WHMIS with the latest Globally Harmonized System (GHS) standards and introduce new hazard classes, revised SDS requirements, and clearer labelling rules. Suppliers, employers, and workers must ensure all classifications, SDS, labels, and training reflect the new standard. Has your municipal unit reviewed your hazardous products, updated documentation, and completed any outstanding WHMIS training to stay compliant and maintain a safe workplace?

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

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:

- HR Hub document library
- Engaging webinars
- Complementary policy manual
- Program information
- More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

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WEBINARS

What's Trending in Cybersecurity

Nova Scotia's municipalities build and maintain the infrastructure and services that drive provincial economic resilience, yet they face growing challenges, from safeguarding against cyber threats to navigating economic uncertainty and changing needs of the workforce. Property Valuation Services Corporation presents a one-hour webinar to learn actionable insights and strategies on cybersecurity, planning for social and economic impacts of growth, and workforce trends.

- February 11 @ 10 am
- Register here

Demystifying Job Order Contracting

In this 90-minute webinar presented by the NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program, join us for an engaging Job Order Contracting (JOC) webinar where Micheal Bevis, past Chair of the Centre for Job Order Contracting Certification Council, will introduce procurement practitioners, employees with procurement responsibilities, and facility

managers to this collaborative, high-performance contracting model designed specifically for renovations, repairs, and minor construction.

- February 12 @ 3 pm
- Register Here

Recap: Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey

Did you miss the recent Engage NS webinar "Launching the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey in Your Community"? You can view the webinar recording here.

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**

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

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