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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. It is an opportunity to showcase ideas that are creative, practical, inspiring within the broader conference program, and are easy to adapt and replicate in other 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

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.](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Equity & Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee

Public library funding remains a key area of focus for the Committee. In February 2026, NSFM adopted public library funding as an advocacy priority, supported by research on municipal contributions to library operations and capital costs.

Following the recent announcement of five library closures in the Annapolis Valley region, NSFM sent a letter on June 12 to 11 provincial ministers highlighting the vital role libraries play in communities and across government priorities. NSFM has also requested a meeting with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and is advocating for a coordinated, cross-departmental approach to support sustainable library funding.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

One-on-One Wildfire Resilience Sessions

June through September, CLIMAtlantic is offering free 90-minute, one-on-one wildfire resilience sessions for municipalities, funded through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund. These practical sessions will help municipal leaders and staff better understand evolving wildfire risks and identify actions to strengthen community resilience. Topics include emergency planning, public education, land-use considerations, fire service readiness, vegetation

are available for francophone communities.

- Register [HERE](#)



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](#)
- Contact wellns_survey@cbu.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**

- 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](#).

NEWS

[‘A tragedy’: One person dead after large fire in Bridgewater, roads still closed](#)
[Annapolis seeks proposals to develop abandoned Upper Clements Park](#)
[Bridgewater Fire grateful for support after fatal fire, donations to be accepted](#)
[CBRM installing bike lanes on busy Sydney street this summer](#)
[Closures reshape access in rural Nova Scotia](#)
[Fire department in Digby County going solar](#)
[Halifax hires new fire chief, first woman to take job](#)
[New President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#)
[Nova Scotians 'need to act now' to prepare for drought, says minister](#)
[Old Halifax library, Daye's former home to be discussed at council next week](#)

FUNDING

Funding Support Available

The NSFM Fund Navigation Program helps municipalities identify and pursue funding opportunities. Visit the [Funding Portal](#) to explore current programs or contact Chantel Gushue, NSFM's Fund Navigator, at fundnavigator@nsfm.ca for assistance.

New opportunities added to the portal this week:

that improve public spaces, community assets, and climate resilience across Atlantic Canada, with up to \$1M available per approved project.

- [New Horizons for Seniors Program - Community-Based Projects](#): Employment and Social Development Canada program that provides up to \$50,000 for projects that enhance seniors' social inclusion, participation, and community engagement.

PROGRAMS

Courier & Logistics Program - NEW

Through the [NSFM/Canoe Courier & Logistics Program](#), members access same-day, on-demand, dedicated, and routed courier services at competitive pricing. From temperature-controlled and HIPAA-compliant transport to dangerous goods handling and Next Flight Out shipments, the program gives healthcare, municipal, academic, and other public sector teams the secure logistics their work depends on. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/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 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 cooperative procurement process. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

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

Wildfire Season Preparedness

[Grainger Canada](#) is a procurement partner in the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting PPE Program](#). As we move closer to the high-risk season of wildfires, refer to the [Grainger](#)

leonie.gillingham@grainger.ca. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Remote Work Arrangements Can Be Binding Contracts

The BC Court of Appeal confirmed in May that long-standing remote work arrangements can become binding contractual terms of employment, even without anything in writing. [Learn](#) about how the court held that unilaterally revoking a remote work arrangement without reasonable notice may constitute constructive dismissal. Employers who have informally allowed remote work for extended periods are now at legal risk if they issue return-to-office mandates without adequate notice. Before issuing any return-to-office mandate, consult an HR professional or employment lawyer. Provide adequate written notice, document the change formally, and ensure a legitimate business justification is clearly communicated.

[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

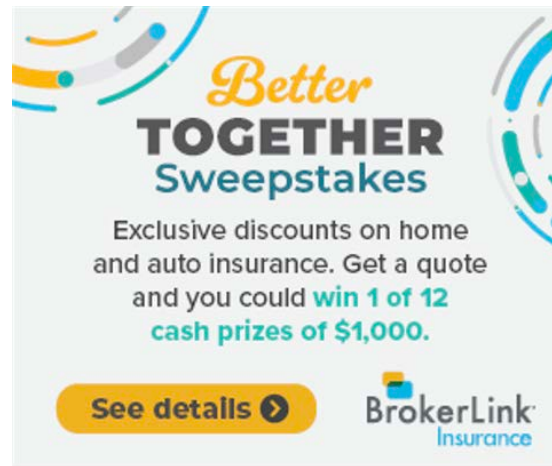
HR Services Program

[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. Municipal units in Nova Scotia now have access to great HR offerings **at no-charge** (the following services are **free** to municipal units), including:

- Unlimited access to the HR Hub document library: to access [register here](#)
- Access to engaging webinars on various HR related topics: [webinar schedule](#)
- Compliant policy manual to protect your organization
- HR Covered will create and review your new manual, address legislative compliance, and pinpoint any HR vulnerabilities; [book a meeting](#) to get your **complementary policy manual** created today
- [Click here for more information](#)

Better Together Sweepstakes

Leaders and staff within the broader municipal sector in NS qualify for exclusive discounts on home and auto insurance through the [NSFM Insurance Program](#). Get a quote on car or home insurance, and you could win one of 12 cash prizes of \$1,000. Do not miss your chance to save on insurance and win! BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector.



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. Many travellers are taking advantage of the travel season this summer, including those on your team! Now is the perfect time to help them get the best value on airport parking. Travel smart from the start with the fastest and most convenient way to park and fly.

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

Assistance Program for Elected Officials

While we often have the skills to manage our daily lives, unexpected challenges can arise that require additional support. Do you know that NSFM offers an **Assistance Program** that elected leaders can access? The program is provided by NSFM through a partnership with Telus Health. The service is voluntary, confidential, and available 24/7

- There is no cost to use the program
- Services are offered in both official languages (French and English)
- Available for use by elected leaders, their spouse/common-law partner, dependents living within the same household, and children away from home attending post-secondary education full time (up to 25 years of age)
- More information: imorrison@nsfm.ca

WEBINARS

Accessible Canada – National AccessAbility Week Funding

Funding for National AccessAbility Week projects that promote accessibility, inclusion, and awareness of the contributions of persons with disabilities. Learn more about the funding [here](#)

Upcoming webinars:

- 17 juin, 2026, à 14h00 ADT (séance en français), [Inscrivez ici](#)
- June 18, 2026, at 2:00 pm ADT (English session), [Register here](#)

Natural Gas Production and Nova Scotia Municipalities

NSFM is hosting an information session for municipal representatives on the potential for natural gas production in Nova Scotia. This session will include a 30-minute presentation from [Dalhousie University's Subsurface Energy Research and Development Investment Program](#) (SERDIP), followed by up to 45 minutes of questions and discussion. The session is an opportunity for municipalities to learn more about the program, and for SERDIP representatives to hear directly from

Event Details**Date:** Wednesday, June 24**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**Register:** [here](#)**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 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.**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 p.m. (EST)**Date/Time #2:** July 21 | 1–2 p.m. (EST)**Learn More & Register:** [here](#)**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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