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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Art of City Building Conference 2026 | Year 10

The [Art of City Building Conference](#) marks its 10th anniversary with two days of conversation, connection, and city building in Halifax & Dartmouth. Registration includes two days of programming across four themes: The Climate Generation, Councils & Crossroads, Who Builds Tomorrow, and Impact Circle, alongside keynote and panel speakers from across the sector. Registrants will also have access to breakout sessions on housing, community, and more.

- September 11: Halifax Central Library
- September 12: Christ Church Hall, Dartmouth
- Both days: 9:30 am-4:30 pm
- Conference & Registration Information [here](#)
- Questions: artofcitybuilding@gmail.com



Wildfire Resilience Support Sessions For Your Community

[CLIMAtlantic](#) is offering free one-on-one 90-minute sessions with Kara McCurdy, a wildfire mitigation specialist, fire services professional, and community resilience advocate. Through funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) fund, CLIMAtlantic is hosting these sessions from August to November. Municipal staff and leaders can learn to:

- Focus on practical, community-level wildfire resilience, including public education, emergency planning, land use considerations, and the realities of limited budgets and capacity
- Identify local strengths, gaps, and priority actions
- Gain a better understanding of how wildfire resilience connects to climate adaptation and municipal decision-making
- Register [HERE](#)

How practical are emergency planning requirements for municipalities with limited staff, competing priorities, and different levels of capacity? A national project involving [CSA Group](#), [DRI Canada](#), [IAEM Canada](#), and [Cascadia Continuity Leadership](#) is developing practical guidance to help Canadian communities prepare for emergencies, maintain essential services during disruptions, and strengthen recovery planning.

A survey is gathering input from municipalities about how emergency and continuity planning is currently done, the challenges communities face, and what tools or guidance would make planning easier to put into practice. The findings will help shape new plain-language guidance based on the Canadian emergency and continuity management standard, CSA Z1600.

- Takes approximately 3-5 minutes
 - Open to CAOs, emergency management staff, partners, operations staff, and others involved in municipal preparedness or continuity
 - No knowledge or use of CSA Z1600 is required
 - [English Survey](#)
 - [French Survey](#)
- More info: AtlanticRegion@iaem.com

NSFM Employment Opportunity

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is hiring. Please see below for the following job opportunity. Kindly circulate this posting in your networks.

- Position: Municipal Wellness Program Coordinator
- Posting Detail: [Click here](#)

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

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv. **Municipal Exchange** is designed as a shared space for municipal news, resources, and discussion 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

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](#).

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Using the Sustainable Development Goals to Advance Local Priorities

Presented by Local Futures

Join NSFM for a Lunch & Learn with Jon Beale, Director of Local Futures, on how municipalities can use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support local planning, decision-making, and community priorities. This session will explore practical ways to “localize” the SDGs and integrate them into governance, planning, budgeting, and program implementation.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click here](#)

NEWS

[Houston says Strait Area Is ‘almost the epicenter’ of opportunity during PH visit](#)

[New mountain bike track in CBRM aims to increase interest in the sport](#)

[Staying connected: Emergencies and the push to address cell coverage in NS](#)

[Truro family pushes back on proposed development next door](#)

[Volunteer-run Port Hastings museum trying to fill void after closure](#)

[When the plant can’t burn coal anymore, what’s a coal plant town to do?](#)

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](#).

New opportunities added to the portal this week:

Canadian Heritage supports organizations working to strengthen the vitality and development of Canada’s official-language minority communities through activities, services, partnerships and community projects.

- [Cooperation with the Community Sector — Community Life: Programming Funding](#) supports ongoing activities and operating costs that contribute to long-term community development.

Deadline: September 21, 2026

- [Cooperation with the Community Sector — Community Life: Project Funding](#) supports one-time, innovative projects that address current or emerging community needs.

Letter of Intent deadline: September 1, 2026

PROGRAMS

Bulk Fuel

for organizations with substantial fuel needs or those situated in remote areas, the program ensures fuel availability, cost predictability, and dependable scheduled deliveries, ultimately reducing downtime and enhancing operational efficiency. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

EV Charging Station

As more people are purchasing electric vehicles, be prepared with charging options. The [NSFM/Canoe EV Charging Station Program](#) will help get charging stations faster, more cost-effectively, and best of all, through a convenient procurement process. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

EV Utility Vehicle

The [NSFM/Canoe Utility Vehicle Program](#) ensures municipal units receive the highest quality utility vehicles at competitive prices. Learn how [Waev Inc.](#) provides vehicles such as street legal low-speed vehicles, industrial utility vehicles and carts, and heavy-duty tow tractors and repower kits. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

HR Spotlight

A Guide For Managing Employee Lateness and Absenteeism

Chronic lateness and absenteeism are among the most persistent and legally complex challenges for employers to manage. The key distinction that every manager must understand is the difference between culpable absenteeism (unexcused, where discipline is appropriate) and innocent absenteeism (illness or disability-related, where the duty to accommodate applies). The [guide](#) covers how to establish a clear, written attendance policy; implement progressive discipline for culpable absenteeism; navigate the duty to accommodate for innocent absenteeism; and recognize when frustration of contract may apply. Canadian employment law requires employers to distinguish between these two categories before taking any disciplinary action. Treating innocent absenteeism as culpable can expose your organization to a human rights complaint.

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

Does insurance cover me if I use my personal vehicle for work?

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.



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

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

WEBINARS

Presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills, & Immigration

Join us for an update on workplace harassment following the September 1, 2025 implementation of new regulations. Learn about emerging trends, key insights, and progress across Nova Scotia workplaces. This interactive session will also explore what's next for workplace safety and provide an opportunity to share the tools, resources, and supports needed to strengthen harassment prevention across the province.

Event Details

Date: August 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Register: [Click Here](#)

Recap: Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

NSFM and [Canoe Procurement Group](#) recently hosted a half hour webinar outlining how the program works and how to access and maximize participation in the program. This short webinar is a great opportunity to gain insight and better understand how this procurement option can support your municipal unit and augment your other procurement activities. The recording will be of interest to anyone in your organization affiliated with the procurement process. Missed the webinar? Access the recording [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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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Suite #1500, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

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