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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

**NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**



STRONGER TOGETHER:
LEADERSHIP, TRUST &
TRANSFORMATION
2026 NSFM CONFERENCE

NOV 3rd – 6th

Westin Hotel, Halifax NS

Sometimes the most effective municipal initiatives are the ones that start with a

simple idea and grow into something transformative. The **Municipal Success Stories** plenary session will highlight three inspiring examples from municipalities that are making a meaningful difference in the lives of residents.

- Hear how the **Town of Wolfville** turned a food security initiative into a thriving weekly community gathering where more than 130 residents come together to share a meal, build relationships, and strengthen community connections through the *Soups and Sides* program
- Learn how the **Town of Antigonish** is encouraging water conservation through its Rain Barrel Rebate Pilot Program, helping residents prepare for increasingly dry conditions while reducing demand on municipal water systems
- Discover how the **Municipality of the District of Yarmouth** redesigned its bursary program to better support both university and skilled trades students, creating stronger pathways for local youth and helping address regional workforce needs

These stories demonstrate how municipalities can foster inclusion, support sustainability, and invest in future generations through practical, community-focused initiatives that deliver real results.

Municipal Success Stories: November 5 @ 2:30 pm Westin Hotel, Halifax NS

Join colleagues from across Nova Scotia to learn how innovative thinking and local leadership can create lasting impacts in communities of every size.

[Conference & Registration Information here](#)

EDUCATION - NEW SERIES

Natural Resources & Energy Education Series

NSFM is pleased to introduce this new series of online sessions designed to create opportunities for municipalities to connect with provincial departments and other partners working in Nova Scotia's energy and natural resources sectors. **Upcoming sessions:**

- **Critical and Strategic Minerals Atlas Tutorial:** [October 19](#) or [October 28](#) 12:00-12:45 PM
- **Learn more and register:** [Natural Resources & Energy Education Series](#)
Additional sessions will be announced as details are confirmed.

MUNICIPAL CONSULTATIONS

Mandatory Orientation Training for Newly Elected Councillors

NSFM is consulting with members on the development of new requirements for municipal orientation training for newly elected councillors.

These consultations will help identify current municipal orientation practices, opportunities, and barriers, and inform an orientation framework that is accessible, equitable, and realistic for municipalities and newly elected councillors.

Seven consultation sessions will be held across the province throughout October, including in-person sessions in Bridgewater, Truro, Wolfville, Port Hawkesbury, and Yarmouth, as well as two virtual sessions.

Members are encouraged to register for the session that best fits their schedule and region. [View the consultation details and register](#)

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Nominations Open for the 2026 Board of Directors Election

The 2026 Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Regional Representatives for each NSFM Electoral Region (except CBRM)

The nomination deadline is October 2.

Learn More About the NSFM Board

Interested in learning more about the role of the NSFM Board of Directors? Current Board member Belle Hatfield shares her experience and highlights the important work of the Board in helping shape the future of Nova Scotia's municipalities. [Watch video to learn more.](#)

Several current Board members will also share why they chose to run for the NSFM Board. Pam Mood, NSFM Past President and Mayor, Town of Yarmouth, shares:

"As elected officials, we excitedly encourage our community members to step up, to have a strong say in shaping their own future. The same applies to each of us with NSFM. It's important we don't leave our futures up to the "someone else will do it" mantra we've all seen. Stepping into service with NSFM is one of the richest experiences I've had, and I'd encourage everyone to give it a go. It's growth and service on another level!"

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Municipal Exchange Launches

Municipal Exchange launched on September 3. This is a listserv 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. You can sign up for the listserv [here](#).

Foreshadowing Growing Impacts of Extreme Weather

In this [opinion piece](#) Kathryn Bakos and Blair Feltmate from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation highlight why climate adaptation needs to become a bigger part of how we think about risk including protecting homes and infrastructure and strengthening financial resilience.

The [Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#) is an education partner of the **NSFM Municipal Insurance Program**.

Municipal Fraud Research

What role do municipal councillors play in preventing and addressing fraud? This session will share findings from *Exploring Fraud Responsibility: A Municipal Perspective*, highlighting insights from municipal leaders and staff across Canada. Participants will explore fraud awareness, council oversight, audit committees, and communication with staff and auditors, along with practical takeaways, common pitfalls, and questions councillors can ask to strengthen governance.

Event Details

Date: Thursday October 15

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click Here](#)

Using 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](#)

[ER doc urges higher minimum age for e-scooters, e-bikes in NS](#)
[Federal investment supports housing infrastructure in Antigonish County](#)
[Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries on the rise in NS](#)
[Halifax looking for approval on coastal buffer](#)
[Halifax municipality to charge flat rate for false alarms in buildings](#)
[New Halifax fire chief says job is 'opportunity of a lifetime'](#)
[New Waterford residents call out thefts, public drug use](#)
[Province warns Colchester council about number of closed-door meetings](#)

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](#).

- [Climate Ready Infrastructure Support](#): Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs provides eligible fire departments and municipalities with free technical consulting to support climate-ready infrastructure projects, improve resilience and emergency preparedness, and strengthen long-term operational sustainability. **Deadline:** September 30
- [Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund - Trails](#): NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables provides funding for the development, planning, design and maintenance of off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails and riding areas across Nova Scotia. **Deadline:** November 1
- [Recreational Trail Expansion Program](#): NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage provides funding to develop and expand recreational trails and make capital upgrades to existing trail infrastructure and connectivity across Nova Scotia. **Deadline:** November 1

PROGRAMS

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.**

Firefighting Apparatus

Discover how the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting Apparatus Program](#) provides the municipal sector with firetrucks you can count on, all with a simplified procurement process and competitive rates. [Dependable Emergency Vehicles](#) is an approved program supplier and a Canadian-based supplier of these vehicles. Learn more about their [pumper vehicle](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Stay Current with NSFM/Canoe Newsletter

The [NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies 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.](#)

HR Spotlight

Remote Work Arrangements Can Be Binding Contracts

The [BC Court of Appeal](#) recently confirmed that long-standing remote work arrangements can become binding contractual terms of employment, even without anything in writing. The court held that unilaterally revoking a remote work arrangement without reasonable notice may constitute constructive dismissal. 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

Insurance Tips: Essential Fall Checklist

The season will soon be changing and besides gearing up for cozy sweaters and pumpkin spiced lattes, there is much to do to get ready for fall and winter. Please refer to our [Essential Fall Checklist](#).

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](#).

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WEBINARS

Climate Risk Assessments: How the Province and Municipalities Are Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

Climate change impacts are increasingly affecting Nova Scotia communities through wildfires, hurricanes, drought and flooding. Climate risk assessments can help municipalities identify risks, opportunities, and priorities to build more resilient communities.

Join NSFM for a webinar exploring the Province's updated 2025 Climate Change Risk Assessment, along with a local example from the Town of Truro. The session will highlight different approaches to climate risk assessment and how municipalities can tailor these tools to their unique needs.

Register: [Click Here](#)

Recap: Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) delivers the latest supplier updates, program spotlights, and event opportunities directly to your inbox. 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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Past Issues

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