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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE



STRONGER TOGETHER: LEADERSHIP, TRUST & TRANSFORMATION

2026 NSFM CONFERENCE
Nov 3 - 6 • Halifax, NS

Registration is now open for the 2026 NSFM Fall Conference. Join municipal leaders from across Nova Scotia for four days of learning, discussion, and networking focused on building stronger communities through effective leadership, public trust, and transformation.

Why attend?

- Timely sessions on governance, public engagement, leadership wellness, climate action, economic trends, and public trust.
- Inspiring keynote speakers, political leader discussions, and updates from provincial partners.

Learn from your peers, share ideas, and help shape the future of municipal leadership in Nova Scotia. Register today and be part of the conversation.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE
PROGRAM & REGISTER**

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS AWARD

Deadline September 30: Climate Change Leaders Award

Is your municipality leading the way on climate action? **Apply by September 30, 2026**, for the **NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award**.

Presented at NSFM's Fall Conference, the award recognizes municipalities demonstrating leadership in climate change adaptation and/or mitigation through innovative initiatives, collaboration and community involvement.

Application Guidelines, Evaluation Criteria, Application Form and past recipients are available on the NSFM website.

Learn more and apply: [Click 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:**

- **Mining in Nova Scotia:** [September 28](#), 12:00-1:30 PM
- **Introduction to the IESO Nova Scotia:** [October 1](#), 12:00-1:00 PM

Additional sessions will be announced as details are confirmed.

Learn more and register: [Natural Resources & Energy Education Series](#)

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 her video to learn more.](#)

Several current Board members will also share why they chose to run for the NSFM Board. Belle Hatfield, Southwestern Shore Regional Representative, shares: *"I put my name forward because I believe municipal government needs a unified voice at the provincial table to tackle issues common to us all. By serving, I've gained a broader understanding of the challenges we share, new colleagues and friendships, and a much deeper appreciation for what we can accomplish when municipalities work together."*

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

BCSF Community stream Spotlight

The Municipality of the County of Cumberland recognizes how important the Cape d'Or Lighthouse is in attracting visitors to the region. Through BCSF Community stream funding, the Municipality has invested in preserving the lighthouse and improving access to the site.

These upgrades help ensure this iconic heritage destination remains safe, welcoming, and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

Learn more about the project in our latest spotlight: [2026 BCSF Community stream Spotlight - Municipality of the County of Cumberland: Cape d'Or Lighthouse Upgrades](#)

Welcome Ambassador Program

The [Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia \(ISANS\)](#) is offering a free 10-hour in-person training course to become a newcomer Ambassador. The program is

volunteers, service providers, businesses, interested community members, and municipal leaders and staff. Training will be held on four consecutive Thursdays, commencing October 8 (6 PM – 8:30 PM).

- Location: 6960 Mumford Road, Halifax, Suite 2120
- Register [here](#)
- More information: gelmous@isans.ca

Apply for the Ken Simpson Memorial Conference Fund

NSFM is pleased to offer the Ken Simpson Memorial Conference Fund, supporting elected officials facing financial or other barriers to attending NSFM's Annual Fall Conference. Two elected officials will receive **complimentary conference registration and a \$500 travel allowance**.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to municipal leadership and professional development, as well as how conference participation will benefit their municipality and community. **Priority will be given to first-time applicants.**

Application deadline: 4:30 PM, Friday, October 2, 2026.

[Download the 2026 Application Form](#)

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](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

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

Event Details**Date:** Thursday, October 15**Time:** 12:00-1:00 PM**Location:** Online**Register:** [Click Here](#)**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**

[CBRM council calls emergency meeting over port development](#)[CBRM deputy mayor concerned over delayed year-end financial statements](#)[Halifax Water to seek residential hikes between 14 to 18 per cent over two years](#)[Heat pump sales scam still ongoing in CBRM](#)[Hubley bike park honours legacy of Kai Matthews](#)[Lunenburg mayor says restrictions remain as town recovers from Dam breach](#)[Residents upset 2 beavers at Cole Harbour lake were euthanized](#)[Repair work continues in Cape Breton](#)[State of emergency lifted in Richmond County after massive flooding](#)[Support for Reducing Wildfire Risk in Upper Hammonds Plains](#)

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.

[Broadband Fund - Call 4](#): CRTC funding supports projects that improve reliable high-speed Internet services in underserved Canadian communities, including fixed broadband and satellite-dependent communities.

Deadline extended: October 15

[Planning Assistance Program](#): Provincial grants assisting organizations and municipalities with professional planning, design, and research for sport and recreation facilities.

Deadline: September 30

[Climate Ready Infrastructure Support](#): The 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

advance freshwater-related circular economy opportunities, and strengthen freshwater data and management across Canada.

Deadline: September 23

PROGRAMS

Statement on Trade Uncertainty

Did you know that NSFM offers a procurement program for municipal units within the province? The [Canoe Procurement Program](#) is free for all municipal units within the broader municipal sector to access and offers an array of trade-compliant purchasing options. With trade uncertainty at an all-time high, the Canoe program can be an important tool for municipal units to access to complement what they are currently doing and to ensure procurement needs are realized. Read Canoe's recent message to the sector [Navigating the Ongoing Canada-U.S. Trade Uncertainty](#).

Tire Program

[Concerned about high tire costs?](#) From fleet to heavy equipment, and even including specialty uses, the [NSFM/Canoe Tire Program](#) meets your tire needs. Get quality, brand name tires for vehicles of any size, retread or brand new, fully trade compliant, and at the best pricing available in Canada. Be sure to check out the winter [KAL Tire incentive](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe MRO Supply Program

The [NSFM/Canoe MRO Program](#) gets you access to what you need with great suppliers offering enormous catalogues. Maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) supplies such as nuts, bolts, hammers, wrenches, safety goggles, construction wear, cleaning supplies, and sanitation solutions are diverse and widely used throughout every organization. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

HR Spotlight

Supporting Employees with Children During Back to School

With back to school season here, this [HR Covered](#) article offers a timely guide for employers managing schedule changes, care needs, and short-notice absences. It

explains the importance of considering family-status accommodation, reviewing available leave options, planning ahead through cross-training, and using flexible scheduling where workable. Respond to family-related requests thoughtfully and consistently. Train managers to escalate accommodation requests, consider practical options before saying no, and document both the conversation and the business constraints involved.

[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

Municipal Wellness Program: September Newsletter

The [Municipal Wellness Program](#) was established in 2014 and encourages Nova Scotia municipal units to create healthy workplace environments and promote positive health and wellbeing for all municipal employees and elected officials. In the [September Newsletter](#), read about the following:

- More from the Municipal Wellness Cookbook
- Upcoming Webinars
- Wellness Bingo Challenge
- Wellness Grant Success Stories

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

Session Details: Wednesday, September 23 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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](#).

Recap: NSFM Health & Dental Plan

Did you miss our recent webinar on the NSFM Health & Dental Plan? You can access the recording here: [NSFM Health & Dental Plan Webinar Link](#). The NSFM plan serves more than 60 municipal units within Nova Scotia and has been providing health, dental, and life/disability benefits to the municipal sector for over 30 years. If your organization is not participating in the plan, but would like more information, please contact imorrison@nsfm.ca.

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**



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES



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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