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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Informal Meeting on Policing Services THIS WEDNESDAY

NSFM is holding an informal meeting on policing services on **July 12th from 4pm to 5pm**. This meeting will be held online. This meeting is open to all elected municipal officials and staff.

Municipalities are committed to providing a high standard of public safety to their residents and visitors. Both long-running concerns and recent events have led to an active conversation on how policing services in Nova Scotia can be better supported and delivered. The distinct policing models found across Nova Scotia each have something to offer to this conversation. We invite you to join this conversation, especially if you are an elected member of your municipality's Advisory Board or Board of Police Commissioners.

No formal decisions will be made during this meeting, the purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and build our knowledge base on issues in need of attention. An initial discussion on identified policing issues will be followed by open discussion on issues not yet noted.

Materials for this meeting will be distributed closer to the date along with a reminder. In the interim, please register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9Ua71jB>

[New Federal Funding for Green Affordable Housing](#)

We wanted to make sure that you were aware of this announcement for funding for affordable housing providers to make energy efficiency retrofits to existing buildings. Applications will open in June. Questions can be directed to the CMHC contact identified in the press release. Please share with your networks as you deem appropriate.

Submit your application for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

Canada's Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, has announced the opening of the Application Portal for the Housing Accelerator Fund.

The application portal will be open until August 18th, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST.
Don't miss this opportunity!

Attend the Application Portal Walk-through information session

Join us for a dynamic information session on the online HAF application portal. Offered on July 13 and 18, this session will cover how to use the portal and efficiently submit your application. Register at cmhc.ca.

Access resources including the HAF Applicant Guide

The [Applicant Guide](#) has been developed to help you to effectively navigate the application submission process and portal. Visit cmhc.ca to access the Guide and other useful information and resources.

Create your profile on the portal today!

If you do not already have one, we recommend that you create a profile on our application portal. The Applicant Guide will demonstrate how to create your account and submit your application. You can find the portal by following these quick steps.

1. Visit cmhc.ca/HAF

3. Scroll down to the "Apply Today" section and click on "Apply Today".

Get Answers to your Questions

CMHC is available to answer questions you may have on submitting your application. Simply contact us by phone at 1-800-668-2642 or email us at contactcentre@cmhc.ca

Please join us for a virtual roundtable discussion focused on Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) initiatives.

The objective is to facilitate connections among municipalities and foster a better understanding of initiatives that can be utilized in HAF applications, ultimately promoting housing growth throughout Nova Scotia. Staff from Halifax Regional Municipality, and the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing will join us and contribute their experience with completing a HAF application and supporting municipal housing initiatives. We encourage your participation in this collaborative event as we collectively strive towards sustainable and impactful housing solutions for our communities. Please register using the link below.

Date: Wednesday July 12th

Time: 10-11 a.m.

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0kce2qgikiEtNYKoKRKCEOYn99qBvKeRhT>

Please contact Lmacleod@nsfm.ca for more information or questions.

[Spring/Summer Municipal Observer Out Now!](#)

Member Update Re: Policing

NSFM represents all municipalities in Nova Scotia and works on their behalf to support strong, sustainable, safe communities. Providing policing services is primarily a municipal responsibility in Nova Scotia and NSFM has been engaged in recent developments related to the RCMP. This update is meant to ensure that all members are informed on these recent developments.

Retroactive Pay for RCMP Officers

The first round of collective bargaining between the federal government and the National Policing Federation (NPF) resulted in retroactive payments for RCMP officers below the rank of Inspector. The federal government indicated that contract partners should prepare for these costs. NSFM worked with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to challenge this decision while we awaited further clarification on what these costs would be and how they would be paid. In the presentation of the 2023 budget, the federal government indicated the decision to distribute these costs with the regular cost-share formula. NSFM worked closely with municipalities that have Municipal Policing Service Agreements (MPSA) as they received invoices for retroactive pay amounts shortly after the federal budget was announced. Minimal details were again provided by the federal government about when payment was due and how municipalities could apply for the optional two-year extended payment plan being offered by Public Safety Canada. NSFM continued to work with FCM and with counterparts across the country on the RCMP Contract Management Committee (CMC) to urge the federal government to rethink this decision and provide financial relief to municipalities. [NSFM sent a letter to the Minister of Public Safety on behalf of MPSAs to make this request directly.](#) In the end, municipalities were given the option of a two-year extended timeline ending March 2025 to pay these amounts.

The Province of Nova Scotia has also challenged this decision. The Province, as the contract holder of the Provincial Policing Service Agreement (PPSA) in Nova Scotia, received an invoice for retroactive pay costs. [NSFM has written letters to both the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Johns,](#) and to the [Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice,](#) urging them to absorb this cost rather than pass it on through the regular cost-sharing mechanisms. In response to these letters, Department of Justice staff have informed NSFM that the Province is pushing back on these costs by using the PPSA dispute resolution mechanism. Department of Justice staff have further informed NSFM that they have not received any response from the federal Department of Public Safety yet. NSFM will continue to keep members who are party to the PPSA informed as this dispute process develops.

stands with the Province in questioning these costs, we believe that our time and efforts will be best used preparing for other concerns that are more costly and apply to all policing models in Nova Scotia.

Update on Collective Bargaining

[Please find the attached PowerPoint slides that the Treasury Board of Canada presented to the RCMP CMC.](#)

The first collective agreement between the Government of Canada (Treasury Board of Canada) and NPF (representing the RCMP employees) expired on March 31, 2023. The second round of collective bargaining commenced on January 23, 2023. The Treasury Board has prioritized negotiating a new collective agreement as soon as possible to minimize any retroactive pay.

CMC officials recently received an update from the Treasury Board Secretariat delivered by Stephen Diotte, Chief Negotiator for the Government of Canada. CMC members were advised that negotiations with NPF are now primarily focused on monetary considerations. The most recent negotiation sessions took place on June 6-8. The Treasury Board Secretariat reported that this round of collective bargaining has gone well, and they are now awaiting a response from NPF. NSFM will continue to update members as negotiations are concluded.

Consultation on Contract Policing

[Please see the overview of the current federal assessment on contract policing.](#) This assessment began prior to the release of the Mass Casualty Commission (MCC) Report and is not directly connected to the MCC recommendation of an independent review of the RCMP. Please note that some of the planned dates have changed due to unanticipated delays.

NSFM has written letters to both the [provincial Department of Justice](#) and the [federal Department of Public Safety](#) asking when Nova Scotian municipalities will have a chance to participate in this consultation. As 39 municipalities in Nova Scotia use contract policing, they certainly have valuable insights to contribute to this assessment.

NSFM has recently confirmed with the Department of Justice that the Province will include NSFM in their consultation sessions with the federal government. [NSFM has also received a response from the Department of Public Safety Canada](#) stating they will be engaging with municipalities, grouped by jurisdiction, as part of the upcoming second phase of their engagement. Public Safety Canada has also informed NSFM that they welcome a written submission to this consultation by the end of this summer. NSFM plans to make a written submission to this consultation based on staff research and direct engagement with NSFM members. NSFM will continue to keep members informed of opportunities to contribute to this assessment.

Emergency Assistance for Heritage Institutions Affected by a Natural Disaster

The Department of Canadian Heritage offers the following opportunities for emergency support to heritage institutions affected by a natural disaster:

Financial Assistance

The Museums Assistance Program (MAP) supports heritage institutions and workers in the preservation and presentation of heritage collections in Canada.

Emergency assistance may be provided to institutions through the Collection Management component of the MAP to help undertake urgent remedial action in order to mitigate the damage to collections caused by a natural disaster.

Eligible Applicants

All incorporated non-profit Canadian museums are eligible to apply for emergency assistance through the MAP.

Application Deadline

The applicant must inform the MAP within 21 days of the natural disaster. After this date, applicants have up to six months to submit a complete application.

Emergency Advice:

Department of Canadian Heritage, offers emergency advice to Canada's heritage community in the aftermath of a fire, flood, earthquake or other catastrophes.

For more information about CCI's emergency advisory service and to obtain the service's toll free telephone number, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/corporate/emergency-advice.html>

The Atlantic regional offices of Canadian Heritage acknowledge the personal and community impact of natural disasters and are committed to providing affected heritage institutions with timely and effective response to emergency assistance inquiries.

2 Billion Trees Program Launch

Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests is supporting our province's contribution to national efforts to tackle climate change, mitigate biodiversity loss and secure healthy forest ecosystems for future generations of Canadians.

Through funding provided by the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, and the Province of Nova Scotia, Clean Foundation is working with the provincial government to develop and deliver tree planting initiatives across the province, with the goal of planting 21 million trees. This will happen by working with interested proponents to develop and fund up to 100 per cent of planting projects, connecting them with service suppliers and supporting a local seed stock inventory.

This program is open to Provincial government, municipal and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, indigenous organizations and communities, and individuals such as private landowners are all welcome and encouraged to share their expression of interest.

All projects must be planting incremental trees, meaning above and beyond any current legally required tree planting activities, and not be part of business-as-usual commercial forestry activities. Examples of successful projects may include (but not limited to): Reforesting an area after a wildfire, reforesting an urban area that has fallen to disease, afforestation on retired agricultural land, restoration of legacy forest landings or forest roads, urban planting projects, initiatives to improve biodiversity and habitat resilience, reforesting an area where disturbances impact a critical habitat, infill planting or underplanting to increase biodiversity of an area.

In addition to searching for landowners and organizations who want to have trees planted on their land, we also are searching for suppliers of seed stock, materials, and personnel. Based on successful recipients and project needs we will match projects to suppliers. If your project has a specific supplier that you wish to work with, we ask you to share that information.

Expressions of interest are open and available on the website: [Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests - Clean Foundation](#)

Expressions of interest are reviewed and assessed as they are received. To ensure your project is assessed for the first phase of planting, please submit before 11:59 PM on August 15, 2023. If you would like to stay up to date on this deadline and others – please visit our webpage and join our mailing list: <https://cleanfoundation.ca/thriving-forests/>

[Coastal Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

Explore this toolkit for advice on how to best prepare for coastal climate impacts

PEOPLE FIRST

HR SERVICES

A division of People Corporation

NSFM and AMANS have partnered with **HR OnCall** to offer municipal units, regardless of size or scope, expertise and practical solutions to meet their human resource needs. NSFM members will receive a special program rate of \$60/month (\$720 annually) for the service. Gain access to best practices and advice for your HR inquiries when you need it.

- [Click here for the NSFM Subscription](#)
- [Click here for HR OnCall Service Options](#)
- [Click here for HR OnCall FAQs](#)



Fuel and Fleet Asset Management Webinar

[The link to the webinar hosted on June 14 can be accessed here.](#)

The webinar, hosted by Gasboy, a Canoe Procurement partner, discussed fuel and fleet management system needs and dispensing equipment for any fleet size. NS municipalities receive discounts on the pre-tendered, negotiated contract through the Canoe Procurement fuel management program. Systems can be tailored to meet the needs of all sizes of municipalities.



[Kentville Municipal Rink Fast-Tracks Buying Process with Canoe, Cuts Costs](#)

Easily Buy Products and Services with Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

NSFM has partnered with [Canoe Procurement Group of Canada](#) to provide our members with an effective tool in your procurement toolbox. Canoe Procurement is a powerful partnership that helps municipalities purchase products and services they use. By combining forces with Canoe, municipalities can access high-quality, competitively priced goods and services, and free up staff time. For more information, [download the Member Procurement Guide](#) (PDF)

Program Benefits

- Completed competitive bid process for suppliers saves the time of doing your own RFP or tender
- Fully compliant with trade agreements
- No minimum purchases, membership fees or binding contracts
- Work with local retailers for service and support

Program Information

- With the buying power of over 5,000 organizations across Canada, NSFM brings the leading local government buying group to Nova Scotia
- Access hundreds of vendors across a wide range of supply categories, everything from paper clips to front-end loaders
- Get a quote, make a purchase; no tendering required

Program Process

- Contact the vendor, your local retailer, or your Canoe representative

- Post the [2023 Notice of Intent](#) (Word document template) on your website to keep purchases compliant with trade agreements
- Vendors may require an ID number from organizations purchasing through Canoe
- Contact your Canoe representative for more information

Get Started

Contact **Andy Saxby** to get started with Canoe Procurement for your municipality's purchasing needs:

Andy Saxby
Member Outreach Representative
Canoe Procurement Group of Canada
Phone: [\(902\) 417-2575](tel:9024172575)
E-mail: andy@canoeprocurement.ca

Upcoming Events

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in NS

The [Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia](#) will hold introductory sessions taking place over the next two weeks.

The proposed dates are:

- Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm (ATL time)
- Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm (ATL time)

[Please email indicating which session you'd like to attend.](#)

Information on these sessions has been posted to the Registry as well: [Information Sessions \(jaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).



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