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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NEWS

2023 Fall Conference: Save the Date

Save the date for the NSFM Fall Conference, which occurs November 7-10 in Halifax. The conference theme is **Raising the Bar on Local Leadership**. Program and registration details will be available in early September.

Introducing NSFM's New Fund Navigator: Lucy MacLeod

We are thrilled to introduce Lucy MacLeod, the newly appointed **Fund Navigator**, a position recently created by NSFM. As the Fund Navigator, Lucy's primary responsibility is to identify infrastructure funding opportunities tailored for municipalities and to facilitate the development of strong grant applications. She is excited about the chance to collaborate with municipalities across Nova Scotia over the next several years. Together, with the support of NSFM, Lucy aims to work towards enhancing our communities and driving impactful projects forward.

You can contact Lucy at lmacleod@nsfm.ca

NSFM Carbon Surcharge Fund 2023

In 2012, NSFM's Board of Directors passed a motion to add a \$5 carbon surcharge fee to its conference registrations to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions generated from hosting these events, as well as on its expense claims for staff and committee members to offset travel. This Carbon Surcharge Fund is collected in a special account and disbursed annually at the Fall Conference to support local, small-scale initiatives that help our municipalities reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This fund is meant to help initiate new projects or extend ongoing projects. NSFM is accepting applications for the 2023 Carbon Surcharge Fund from now until **August 24**.

The application form may be found at <https://nsfm.ca/awards.html>

NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award 2023

NSFM's Climate Change Leaders Award honours municipalities that have demonstrated exemplary leadership in climate change adaptation and/or mitigation through the implementation of initiatives and creation of awareness. The objectives of the award program are to celebrate successes, encourage continuous action towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, support the implementation of strategies from Municipal Climate Change Action Plans, and support collaborative efforts and the sharing of information among municipalities. This award is meant to recognize ongoing or recently completed projects. NSFM is accepting applications for the 2023 Climate Change Leaders Award from now until **August 24**.

The application form may be found at <https://nsfm.ca/awards.html>.

Overview of July 12th Policing Meeting

Thanks to those who attended the July 12th NSFM Meeting on Policing Services. Your contributions help to confirm and further develop our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the different policing models. If you did not attend the meeting, you can read the overview document to see what was discussed. If you posed a question that was not answered during the meeting, NSFM endeavoured to provide answers in the overview document, which can be accessed [at this page](#).

As well, thanks to those who participated in the recent NSFM Survey on Policing.

IN THE NEWS

[CBRM Says Earthen Berms Helped Reduce Flooding in Sydney after Rainy Weekend](#)

[Commercial Building Codes Lack Strong Wildfire Management Provisions](#)

[Lunenburg Mayoral Hopefuls Vow to Tackle Deep Divisions over Potential Land Sale](#)

[Nova Scotia Flooding Halts CN Rail Traffic](#)

FUNDING

2 Billion Trees Program Launch

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. All are welcome and encouraged to share their expression of interest.

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

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

FCM Funding Opportunities

Stay up-to-date with funding opportunities through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Visit <https://fcm.ca/en/funding> to find more information and links.

Province Announces Disaster Financial Assistance for July 2023 Floods

In response to the communities that have been affected by the floods, the province has announced disaster financial assistance for any household, small business, and not-for-profit who sustained uninsurable damages. Nova Scotians can now apply for disaster financial assistance related to damage from the severe flooding. The program covers up to \$200,000 in uninsurable losses per household, small business, and not-for-profit organization.

Apply:

- Online: beta.novascotia.ca/disaster-financial-assistance-storm-flooding
- At Access Nova Scotia centres
- At MLA offices

What You Should Know:

- Disaster financial assistance does not replace private insurance and only uninsurable damage is eligible
- People who are not sure if their insurance covers the damage should contact their insurance broker or company, or the Insurance Bureau of Canada at 1-844-227-5422
- The disaster financial assistance application includes a form to be filled out by the applicant's insurance company confirming that insurance was not available for losses
- Applications are assessed for eligibility and losses verified by an adjuster; processing can take several months.

Additional updates on the flood recovery effort: <https://novascotia.ca/alerts/>

News Release: [Disaster Financial Assistance for July 2023 Floods](#)

Submit Applications for the Housing Accelerator Fund

Canada's Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion has announced the opening of the Application Portal for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). The application portal will be open until August 18 @ 11:59 pm (Eastern).

Access resources including the HAF Applicant Guide

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

Get Answers to your Questions

CMHC is available to answer questions. Contact them by phone @ 1-800-668-2642 or email @ contactcentre@cmhc.ca

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

The Canada Greener Affordable Housing (CGAH) program

PROGRAMS

Buy What You Need. Sell What You Don't.

back. Participate in online auctions for government surplus and unclaimed property including heavy equipment, cars, trucks, buses, and much more.

Unlike the traditional, linear process of manufacturing an item to be used and ultimately discarded, you can participate in the circular economy by extending the utility of assets with “as is, where is” surplus sales. By incorporating circularity into the economic process, usable goods can be saved from landfills and incineration through repurpose and reuse by new owners. Measure your success by tracking both the quantity of assets diverted from landfill and total weight of assets diverted from landfill. [Discover the solution today!](#)

NSFM & Canoe Procurement Program

Do you need help finding cost-effective products and services and would you like to learn more about using [Canoe Procurement](#)?

Andy Saxby is here to help. Since January, Andy has been working as the member outreach representative for Nova Scotia municipal units. He is your direct contact for the Canoe program.

In his role, Andy helps local governments and non-profits find time and cost-saving benefits on a wide variety of municipal needs. He also provides educational sessions and support to help members navigate the cooperative procurement process.

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

Andy Saxby

Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

Phone: (902) 417-2575

E-mail: andy@canoeprocurement.ca

NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program

NSFM offers a comprehensive and flexible commercial, D&O, and liability insurance program so that municipal units are able to effectively meet the needs of their citizens. Benefits can be summarized as follows:

- Continued evaluation around the quality of the broker services (annual survey) and acting on the results received from participants
- Education and awareness around risk management issues (including inspections which contain hazard recommendations as well as building valuations and contract reviews)
- Guiding participants to control claims by mitigating risks in advance
- Local claims management
- Insurance products specifically aimed at municipal units and the expertise of the service team
- Leveraging the strength of the relationships within the program (insurer, brokers, program sponsor)
- Stability within an unstable landscape
- Strength in numbers

The advantages of the program are best explained by the municipal units participating in the NSFM program:

- Benefit of being part of a larger group
- Communication with fellow municipalities
- Economies of scale
- Insurance provided through a municipal lens
- Not having to tender and plan the program oneself
- Program tailored to small, medium, and large municipalities

In addition, the NSFM program offers value-added education around topics such as:

- Hazards of Special Events
- How Hail Affects Shingle Roofs
- How to Increase Resilience of Urban Trees
- Mitigation strategies within our communities to address the threat of extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires
- Towards a Flood Forecasting Framework in Canada

Have you evaluated your commercial insurance needs recently? Questions about the NSFM program? Contact imorrison@nsfm.ca

Integrated Fuel Controls by Canoe Procurement & Gasboy Solutions

Providing fleet drivers with better user experiences makes their jobs more efficient, allowing them to service other demands. Pedestal-free forecourts and wireless technology make technicians' lives easier.

Learn more about the Atlas PRIME Pedestal Free Commercial Forecourts provided by **Gasboy Solutions** and the **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program**. Dispensers with integrated fuel controls save time and resources for your municipal unit – and this benefits everyone!

- Information on the Fuel Management Program: <https://canoeprocurement.ca/program/fuel-management-program/>
- What is Gasboy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87-W8S3r_WQ
- Gasboy products offered through Canoe: <https://info.gasboy.com/canoe-procurement-group-fueling-solutions>

RESOURCES

[Coastal Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

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

Engaging Infographics Show How Nova Scotia Health is Connecting the Dots Between Poverty and Health

Municipalities can support residents in need and help them access necessary services by connecting the dots on poverty. People living in poverty are at higher risk of experiencing **social isolation** and **loneliness** than the general population. This is also true for visible minorities, Indigenous Canadians, those with mobility challenges, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. Municipalities can help **connect the dots** between poverty and health.

More information to support planning, decision making, and conversations with constituents, can be found in [this infographic](#) and resource website: <https://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/resources>

A strong community **transportation system** can attract and retain more residents and businesses in a community, increasing local economic activity. Community transportation can help promote a more active lifestyle in rural communities. Municipalities can help **connect the dots** between poverty and health.

More information to support planning, decision making, and conversations with constituents, can be found in [this infographic](#) and resource website: <https://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/resources>

FCM Launches Second Cohort of its GBA Plus Course

FCM's CanWILL project is pleased to be launching a free, online learning course entitled: "Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus as an Equity Lens for the Municipal Sector: Mini Course for Change Agents".

The 4-module course was designed to meet the needs of FCM members to support their equity goals. It will also contribute to equipping municipalities to respond to the mainstreaming of GBA Plus across federal government agencies, including funding opportunities. The course will be self-directed and each module will provide a dynamic combination of technical information, videos, readings, exercises, as well as a moderated discussion board. Municipal and community leaders, as well as individuals interested in gender equity and inclusion in municipal governance, are key target audiences for this course. [Click here](#) to register for the second cohort, starting September 15th ,2023.

[Summer Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Presentation on Wildfire Resilience

Cheryl Evans, Director of Flood and Wildfire Resilience at the **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation** spoke recently at the Forest Adaptation Practitioners' Network (FAPN) roundtable about sharing resources that can help Canadians prepare for wildfire.

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation is an education partner of the **NSFM Municipal Insurance Program**.

[Cheryl Evans Presents on Wildfire Resilience at FAPN Community Roundtable \(July 24th, 2023\) - YouTube](#)



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