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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Future-Focused Municipalities: PIONEERING SOLUTIONS

May 8-10, Inverary Inn, Baddeck, NS

The **2024 NSFM Spring Conference** will take place from May 8–10. Register soon and don't miss out on the early bird registration fee!

Complete program and registration details, including fees and deadlines, can be found here: [Conference and Registration Information](#)

Session Spotlight: Untangling Government Relations

In today's noisy, complex, and changing world, having a sound strategy for working with your government partners is more important than ever. Join us as we explore municipal priorities within the current provincial political and policy landscape. Our session will touch on:

- **Strategies and tactics for effective government relations.** Explore who matters most to you, the decision-making process, and how to shape public policy.
- **The importance of clear, consistent communications** to advance your plan.
- **The “power of the collective.”** How to develop an effective advocacy approach, including when and how to use the Opposition and the role of the media.

Join Kristan Hines, Senior VP of Public Affairs, NATIONAL Public Relations as she leads a discussion informed by her experience as a senior government advisor and strategic communications expert.

HISTORIC MOU SIGNED

At a signing ceremony held on March 28 at Province House, the Province and NSFM signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement takes effect April 1 and represents a landmark development for Nova Scotia's municipalities.

The signing of the new MOU follows two years of negotiations and a significant investment of time and effort from NSFM, its leadership, and its membership. Thank you to our membership for their participation in the development of the MOU.

“The signing of this service exchange agreement marks a pivotal moment for Nova Scotia's municipalities, signaling a historic investment in our communities. Together, we've worked to address the evolving needs of our residents, fostering growth, and sustainability across the province.” – Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, President, NSFM

“The new service exchange agreement reflects a collaborative effort to support the diverse needs of Nova Scotians and bolster the vitality of our municipalities. With increased investment and streamlined processes, we are better equipped to address the challenges and opportunities facing our communities.” – Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM

“Today's agreement signifies a significant step forward in enhancing the partnership between the Province and municipalities. With the removal of certain financial burdens and the introduction of flexible funding mechanisms, we're poised to build stronger, more resilient communities for generations to come.”

— Murray Scott, Mayor, Municipality of the County of Cumberland; co-Chair, Service Exchange Renegotiation and Municipal Government Act Review Committee

For more information: [Historic Investment in Municipalities](#)

Photos: [Service Exchange Agreement Signing](#)

NEWS

[Antigonish Tax Rates Reviewed to Ensure Merger is Right Move](#)

[Decision Leaves Gaps in Municipal Planning](#)[Wildfire Season: Here's What You Should Know](#)[NS Hits Pause on Antigonish Consolidation](#)[Op ed: Keep Wildfires at Bay](#)[Total Eclipse Promises Celestial Show and a Possible Comet](#)[New Glasgow Buildings Condemned](#)

FUNDING

Unleash Fiscal Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFAM Funding Database is a centralized resource is dedicated to our members to help find municipal funding opportunities. A monthly funding update will also be communicated, outlining deadlines and information sessions.

Click [here](#) to see the latest updates on the Municipal Funding Database.

New & Noteworthy:

- Quest Canada: [Pan-Atlantic Net-zero Community Accelerator Program](#)
- [Green Municipal Fund](#) webinar on April 11 about implementing multi-solving in your sustainability project, [click here](#) to register
- [Safe Communities First Responder Program](#) added to database and now open
- [Innoweave program](#) now open
- [Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund Communities Grant](#) now open
- [Tourism Digital Assistance Program](#) now open
- [Community Solar Program](#) now open
- [Seed Funding](#) now open
- [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#) design and planning stream open
- [Environmental Damages Fund](#) re-opens shortly
- Community Health Boards [Wellness Funds](#) now open
- [Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Community Fund](#) webinars April 2,3,4 seeking participation in the program

FCM Funding Opportunities

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) offers grants for municipal environmental projects. Loans are also available to municipalities at competitive rates and most recipients receive an additional grant of up to 15% of their loan amount. Municipal partners may apply for competitive, long-term financing: [more information](#). Learn more about FCM's [Green Municipal Fund](#) (GMF), which is revising its core funding to enhance its flexibility and adaptability and maximize its impact.

PROGRAMS

Understanding NSFAM/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 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. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. Contact Andy at andy@canoeprocurement.ca or (902) 417-2575. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe & Expertec:

The world of skilled trades and fleet management is a dynamic one where excellence is a standard. The **NSFM/Canoe Fleet Management Program** goes beyond just meeting the needs of today's professionals, it anticipates the challenges of tomorrow. The purposefully designed and built aluminum service bodies by **Expertec** are a testament to this commitment, setting new benchmarks for performance, durability, and style. [Read the latest article from Expertec](#) to see how aluminum service bodies can help transform your operations, delivering unmatched efficiency, reliability, and professionalism. This program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

EV Charging Station Program

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.**

Auto Insurance Tips: Electric & Hybrids

BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector. Their dedicated group insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value.

Thinking about purchasing an electric or hybrid vehicle? [Click here](#) for some useful information on how that impacts your insurance.

BrokerLink is a program partner of NSFM

WEBINARS

Amplifying Climate Awareness

April 24 10 am – 11 am (Atlantic)

NSFM is pleased to present a free webinar for all members. Learn from the Canadian Centre for Climate Services and CLIMAtlantic about:

- Climate trends and projections for Nova Scotia
- Tools, resources, and services available to apply climate data in your own work
- Examples of what others are doing to adapt to climate change
- Participate through interactive polling and a question period

Presenters:

- Casey Clunas, Canadian Centre for Climate Services
- Frances Delaney, Canadian Centre for Climate Services
- Alex Cadel, CLIMAtlantic

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Webinar Recording: HR OnCall

Did you miss our webinar on **HR OnCall**? NSFM in partnership with HR OnCall offers HR support for municipal units in Nova Scotia. This webinar discusses how you can access a dedicated team of professionals that can help guide you through the challenges of leading people and building an HR infrastructure with HR OnCall. This webinar also explains how the program works, how access works, and how you can benefit from HR guidance, expert consultation, reduce risk, gain peace of mind, and save time and money. [Click Here](#).

Webinar Recording: Home & Auto Insurance

Did you miss our webinar on the **NSFM Personal Home & Auto Insurance Program**? BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector. Their dedicated group insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value. This webinar recording explains how the program works, how access works, and how you, as an elected leader or municipal staffer can benefit from lower insurance rates and value-added education on insurance products. [Click here](#).

FEATURED

Advisors, Vendors, and Education

Are you familiar with the Learning Development Supply Arrangement (LDSA) or Flextrack? Did you know that municipalities can take advantage of the province's standing offer for services in a variety of areas.

Need advice or expertise on topics such as DEI, mindfulness, decision making, or conflict management? The **LDSA** can provide you with a list of course information and available vendors that have an established standing offer with public service bodies.

Flextrack can provide a list of vendors for a variety of service areas which municipalities can contact and award either directly or through a statement of work process. Service areas include learning development, managed business services, and executive search.

Both of these initiatives are approved for use by public service bodies in NS. For more information, please contact staci.macaskill@novascotia.ca or visit [here](#).

Update: Offshore Wind Development

The Committee for the [Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia](#) submitted the [Interim Report](#) to Ministers on March 23. The report outlines the progress made to date, provides early recommendations, and proposes six areas for potential future offshore wind development. The Committee proposes potential future development areas to inform government processes, encourage further feedback, and guide and focus the next engagement phase.

The Committee will be actively engaging with all participants throughout the spring. Open house sessions will be held in April, May, and June. Locations will be posted to the Registry site. The Committee will review all comments received, complete revisions to the draft report, and produce a final report that will be submitted to the Ministers in January 2025.

- [Interim Report](#)
- [Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia](#)

More information, contact: OffshoreWindNS-FolienneExtracotiereNF@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Trail User Survey

The Trail Use Survey is a collaborative effort of the Trails Strategy Coordinating Group. This survey is designed to collect information about the benefits and impacts that trails have on the economy and overall well-being of the communities they are in. Participate in or share the [trail_user_survey](#). This survey will contribute to understanding the impact of trails in NS.

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

[Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for Atlantic Canadian municipalities



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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Suite #1304, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

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