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Monday Memo

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Mark Your Calendars!

NSFM Spring Conference; May 8–10, 2024; Inverary Inn, Baddeck, NS

Join us for the highly anticipated NSFM Spring Conference, set against the picturesque backdrop of the Inverary Inn Resort, from May 8 to 10. We're thrilled to announce that Olympian Brad Gushue as the Keynote Speaker!



A trailblazer in every sense, Brad Gushue hails from St. John's, Newfoundland, and has etched his name in Canadian curling history.

[Read More](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS – Now Open For Booking!

[Learn More](#)

INVITATION

To Join the 2024 NSFM Fall Conference Planning Committee

We invite you to participate in the 2024 NSFM Fall Conference Planning Committee. Scheduled for November 27 to 29 in Halifax post-election, this conference offers a valuable opportunity for municipal leaders to collaborate and address important issues facing Nova Scotia communities.

The committee's role is to develop the conference agenda and assist in chairing sessions, with NSFM staff handling logistics. Meetings will be held virtually, likely two to three times before the event, beginning tentatively on March 28.

Preference will be given to those planning to re-offer in the upcoming municipal elections, ensuring continuity throughout the planning process and the event itself. Four individuals will join the Chair on the committee.

Candidates will be reviewed and appointed by the Chair of the 2024 planning committee. This is an opportunity to contribute to the success of NSFM's flagship event and network with municipal leaders across the province.

To express your interest, please submit your name by March 5 to jwebber@nsfm.ca. We appreciate your dedication to serving Nova Scotia municipalities and look forward to collaborating with you.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee

The committee has begun to review membership priorities. Chaired by Warden Alex Morrison of Annapolis County, this committee advises how supporting municipal autonomy can aid progress toward province-wide goals.

There are currently 2 open positions for elected officials on the Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee.

If you have an interest in exploring municipal autonomy, please forward your name and a brief description of your background to wpetite@nsfm.ca. **The deadline to express interest is March 21.**

Some information on the Committee:

- Scheduled meetings take place 4 times a year, with additional meetings arising as necessary.
- Committee members review advocacy issues generated by NSFM member councils like yours and emerging municipal priorities.

Reach out today or learn more from upcoming updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications.

[Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee](#)

The committee has commenced its work. The Committee will provide opportunities for education and knowledge sharing among the membership related to the promotion of the voices of underrepresented individuals in local government and collaboration among diverse community stakeholders. Chaired by Councillor Alison Graham, the committee is looking for one additional elected official to join.

- Committees meet 4 times a year to review advocacy issues generated by the membership
- Terms of Reference are available
- Stay tuned for additional updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications

Have an interest in this Committee? Please forward your name and a background brief to imorrison@nsfm.ca **Deadline: February 29**

SEEKING SUCCESS STORIES

Call for Youth Engagement Success Stories!

NSFM Spring Conference 2024 – May 8-10

Do you have a remarkable youth engagement success story to share? We invite you to showcase your municipality's achievements at the upcoming NSFM Spring Conference!

Why Share Your Story?

Inspire Others: Your success can motivate fellow leaders to enhance youth engagement in their communities.

Learn and Connect: Exchange insights and build valuable connections with peers.

Presentation Opportunity: Selected submissions will be featured on a panel during the conference. The planning committee will select up to three submissions to be featured.

How to Participate: Submit your success story by **March 1** to jwebber@nsfm.ca

Join Us in Shaping the Future: Celebrate your municipality's dedication to youth empowerment and contribute to a vibrant discussion on community building in Nova Scotia. Don't miss this chance to make a difference!

Inquiries: jwebber@nsfm.ca.

More information on the NSFM 2024 Spring Conference coming soon!

Unlock NS's Tourism Potential: Share Your Unique Innovations!

NSFM Spring Conference 2024 – May 8-10

Do you have a groundbreaking tourism initiative that sets your community apart? We are also seeking innovative ideas on tourism in your communities to showcase at the upcoming spring conference. Whether it's an off-the-beaten-path attraction, an initiative to inspire locals to explore their own backyard or a creative event, we want to hear about it!

Why Share Your Idea?

Inspire Others: Your innovative approach could spark new ideas and collaborations among municipalities across Nova Scotia.

Gain Recognition: Selected submissions will have the opportunity to present on a panel at the conference, gaining visibility and recognition for your municipality's tourism efforts.

Contribute to Growth: By sharing your unique innovation, you contribute to the growth and diversification of Nova Scotia's tourism industry.

How to Participate: Submit your idea by **March 1** to jwebber@nsfm.ca. Don't miss this chance to showcase your municipality's ingenuity.

NEWS

[Podcast: The Todd Veinotte Show February 9th, 2024 - CityNews Halifax](#)

[Slow but steady progress to clear out Cape Breton after storm | 101.5 The Hawk](#)

[Wolfville conducts tree inventory to help town deal with effects of climate change](#)

FUNDING

Unleash Fiscal Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The **NSFM Funding Database** is a centralized resource 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**.

[Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program](#) is open, apply 18 weeks before the event start date.

Community Health Boards [Wellness Funds](#) will open on March 4.

[Mitacs](#) offers support for municipalities.

Funding to train [Residential Building Officials](#) is available, deadline March 1.

[Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#) will close the capital stream on Feb 28.

[Civil Forfeiture Grant Program](#) is open for continuous intake.

[Festival and Community Event Development](#) program is open, deadline Feb 28.

On February 7, Scott Pearce, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

(FCM), announced that its [Green Municipal Fund](#) (GMF) is revising its core funding to enhance its flexibility and adaptability and maximize its impact.

[Click here](#) to find more information.

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Furniture

With the **NSFM/Canoe Furniture Program**, you get access to furniture designers and manufacturers recognized as experts in their fields, ensuring some of the best commercial furniture available. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

[NSFM Canoe Furniture Program information](#)

NSFM/Canoe Keeps Your Fleet Moving

The **NSFM/Canoe Auto Parts Program** partners with NAPA Auto Parts to make your budget go further. NAPA has programs designed for both small and large fleet customers with the most extensive coverage in the automotive aftermarket. A national team of fleet specialists are available to support you and your fleet with inventory support, cost analysis, and reporting to ensure that you always understand your spend and where it's going. [Learn more!](#) The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

AMANS Launches New Wellness Website

AMANS has launched new [wellness website](#). **Highlights include:**

- **Streamlined Navigation:** Find what you need effortlessly
- **Fresh Design:** Modern look and feel for enhanced engagement
- **Rich Content:** Updated information and resources at your fingertips
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Intuitive features for a smoother browsing experience

More information, contact mbower@amans.ca

GoodLife Fitness Discount

Municipal employees and elected officials can access the **GoodLife Fitness Discount Program**. **Features include:**

- 30% corporate discount off club pricing.
- Access to professionally trained staff, while receiving
- No enrollment fees
- All municipal employees and elected officials are eligible for this program. You do not need to be an AMANS member

Visit our [NEW](#) website for more information on the [GLF Membership Discount Program](#)

To register for the program or obtain more information, contact mbower@amans.ca

LIFT Fitness

If your municipality or municipal unit is a subscriber to the **TELUS Health EAP program**, check out the FREE [LIFT Fitness Program](#).

Benefits:

- Full suite of FREE fitness offerings that make working out exciting, easy, and efficient
- Custom programs created by certified experts to help you reach your goals
- Live chat with experienced fitness professionals to help you every step of the way
- Just like working out at your gym or studio without ever stepping outside

More information, contact mbower@amans.ca

WEBINARS

Preferred Insurance Rates for Elected Leaders & Staff

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 insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value.

Eligibility

- Municipal leaders
- Municipal staff
- Family members living in the same household, including spouse/common law spouse, dependents under the age of 21, or 25 (if attending a post secondary institution full time)
- Retirees

This webinar explains how the program works, how access works, and how you can benefit from lower insurance rates and value-added education on insurance products.

- February 28: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm (AST)
- [Register Here](#)
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

BrokerLink is a program partner of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

The **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program** provides you with cost-effective, compliant purchasing options. If you missed the recent Canoe 101 webinar, you can still access the recording. The webinar gives an overview of how the [Canoe Procurement Group](#) can save you time and money in purchasing and is offered courtesy of [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#). To view the webinar, click [here](#).

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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