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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Nominate Your Leaders: Insights from Current Board Members

The 2024 Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for key leadership positions within the NSFM Board of Directors: **President**, **Vice President**, and **Regional Representatives** for each [NSFM Electoral Region](#). [Click here](#) for more information and the [Nomination Form](#).

Nominations will be accepted until November 1.

Watch as [Belle Hatfield](#) and [Paul Russell](#), current Board members, share their experiences and discuss the crucial work being done to shape the future of our municipalities, and to view their videos.

Please note: The **Valley Electoral Region** and the **Cape Breton Strait Electoral Region** each have two Regional Representative positions on the NSFM Board of Directors up for election. This gives you twice the opportunity to nominate or run for these important Board roles in these regions.

2024 NSFM FALL CONFERENCE



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE ENDS THIS THURSDAY!

There is incredible value in attending an NSFM event—both for you, and for your municipality.

Attendees will participate in presentations, discussions, educational and networking opportunities focusing on topics such as renewable energy, policing models, good governance and much more. Keynote speaker Jon Montgomery will speak on Innovation and Realism and the party leaders have been invited to share their vision for Nova Scotia.

Need more reasons to register? Here are the top three reasons to attend NSFM's 2024 Annual Conference

- 1. Informative sessions:** From sessions on Emergency Management; Inclusive Communities; Cyber Security; to Grant Application Strategies, there's never been a better time to learn.
- 2. Insightful speakers:** Engage with provincial party representatives and inspiring changemakers who are leading with integrity and vision in communities across Nova Scotia.
- 3. Network and partner:** Connect with your fellow municipal colleagues, provincial department representatives and our sponsor partners/suppliers.

Whether you are newly elected or a returning elected official, this really is a conference like no other. We can't wait to host you. Don't miss out! [Register today.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PROGRAM & TO REGISTER](#)

The full program and registration details are found on the conference site.

Municipal Code of Conduct Training Sessions

Registration is now open for the Municipal Code of Conduct In-Person Training Sessions

NSFM encourages all municipal elected officials to attend the in-person Code of Conduct training sessions scheduled for January 2025. These sessions will provide important information regarding the **Code of Conduct**.

Please [click here](#) to find the schedule and [click here](#) for your electoral region.

Register today!

SEASONAL PHOTO CONTEST

Share Your Municipality's Seasonal Photos!

NSFM is calling on all municipalities to showcase the beauty of their communities in the winter season! We're looking for stunning seasonal images to be featured in our **Holiday Card**, and potentially on the **NSFM Website**, across our **Social Media Channels** (LinkedIn, Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram), and in **publications** like **NSFM's Annual Report**, the **Municipal Observer**, and **Atlantic Municipal Magazine**.

How to Participate: Submit your best seasonal photos (hi-resolution/300dpi) by **4 pm on Friday, November 8** to: communications@nsfm.ca

All entries (1 per person) will be entered into a draw for **1 Free Registration to NSFM's Fall Conference**, valued at **\$750!**

Show off the charm of your municipality and get a chance to win while spreading holiday cheer across Nova Scotia!

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Notice of Proposed By-law Changes

The NSFM Board of Directors is recommending by-law changes to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting on November 28th, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The proposed changes include:

- [Motion 1:](#) Amend Quorum Language (Subsection 6.4 d)
- [Motion 2:](#) Amend Board Expenses Language (Subsection 5.9)

[Click here](#) to review the by-laws with proposed amendments.

For questions contact: info@nsfm.ca.

Public Review of National Model Codes

Public review of proposed changes to the 2020 National Model Codes is now open. The Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes (CBHCC) encourages participation in the review. Proposed changes affect the following: National Building Code of Canada, National Plumbing Code of Canada, National Fire Code of Canada, and National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings.

- **Visit the** [CBHCC's website](#), examine the proposed changes, and provide feedback
- **Deadline: December 19**
- **More info:** CBHCCSecretary-SecretaireCCHCC@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

Banking on Your Energy Transition: Net-Zero Project Workshop

Join Quest Canada November 25 & 26 in Halifax for a **free workshop** at Nova Scotia Power, focused on advancing net-zero projects in your community. Travel and accommodation expenses are fully reimbursed. Connect with experts, funders, and peers to refine projects such as solar, energy retrofits, PACE, and EVs. Expect lectures, group work, and networking. Pre-workshop, participants will develop a project summary with expert guidance.

Event Details:

- **Dates:** Nov. 25 (9 AM–4:30 PM) & Nov. 26 (9 AM–1 PM)
- **Location:** Nova Scotia Power, 1223 Lower Water Street
- **Learn More:** Attend info sessions on Oct. 18 at 11 AM or Oct. 21 at 1 PM
- **Registration & Info:** [HERE](#)

NEWS

[Annapolis Royal elects all-women council, mayor](#)
[Halifax Mayor Mike Savage named new lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia](#)
[Lunenburg to move forward with Cornwallis Street name change](#)
[Mulgrave mayor 'scared' after run-in with coyotes as frequent sightings reported](#)
[Next cohort of Antigonish County councillors to tackle coastal protection](#)
[N.S. government sets up code of conduct for province's municipal politicians](#)
[Podcast: Live broadcast of Insights at Annual Atlantic Network Conference](#)
[Voters with disabilities eventually cast ballots after complaints in Richmond County](#)
[West Hants wants more space between wind turbines and private land](#)

FUNDING

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.

- [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program](#) is accepting EOI for the Utility Support Stream
- [Codes Acceleration Fund](#) is open
- [Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program](#) is now open for applications
- The application period is now open for three components of the [Museums Assistance Program](#)
- [Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk](#) is open for applications
- Intact has a [Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant Program](#) open for applications
- A new page "[Retrofits and New Builds](#)" has been added to the Municipal Funding Database
- [Emergency Treatment Fund](#) is open

FCM Funding Opportunities

FCM has you covered with the right type of project funding. Grants are available for planning, studies, and pilot projects. Loans are available for capital projects and most recipients receive an additional grant of up to 15% of their loan amount. [More information.](#)

PROGRAMS

Fuel & Lubricants

With a nationwide network of providers, the [NSFM/Canoe Lubricant Program](#) provides you with unparalleled cost-effectiveness, detailed consumption information, convenient account management, and advanced security features, all designed to enhance your operational efficiency. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Staples Professional: SafeSpace24 WatchPods

The COVID-19 pandemic placed additional tension on many economic factors that were already strained. The current housing crisis in British Columbia is one of them. [Staples Professional](#) collaborated with BC Housing to offer support during a time of need, working together to provide a dignified solution to a complex challenge.

Tire Promotion for Municipalities

Concerned about high tire costs? From fleet to heavy equipment, and even including specialty uses, the [NSFM/Canoe Tire Program](#) has you covered for all 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. NSFM and Canoe partner with [Kal Tire](#), [Goodyear](#), and [Michelin](#) to deliver excellent pricing and service. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

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

Insurance Tips: Essential Fall Checklist

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. [More information.](#)

The season is changing and besides gearing up for cozy sweaters and pumpkin spiced lattes, there is much to do to get ready for fall and winter. Please refer to our [Essential Fall Checklist.](#)

Under the [Grade Crossings Regulations](#), railway companies and public and private authorities share responsibility for managing safety at federally regulated grade crossings. Municipalities may be a road authority with certain [responsibilities](#) to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Regulations. The most recent changes extended the compliance deadline until November 2022 for high-priority grade crossings and November 28, 2024 for all other grade crossings. The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) is working to gain an understanding of the broader cost implications and to prepare to correspond with the Minister on this issue. FCM would like to hear from you on examples of municipalities that are responsible for either a large number of affected grade crossings or high regulatory compliance costs.

Questions and comments: mpelletier@fcm.ca

FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2025: Registration is now open!

The FCM Sustainable Communities Conference (SCC) brings together municipal sustainability practitioners and local leaders from across the country to learn from each other and share actionable solutions towards a more resilient and sustainable future. Reduced rates offered to members of small (<10,000), rural, Northern, and Indigenous communities.

- February 10-13, Fredericton NB
- [Take advantage of our early bird prices. Register today!](#)
- [More information](#)

Financial Planning for Sustainable Service Delivery

Is your municipality looking to improve its long-term financial planning processes? A proactive approach to financial planning can help lower ongoing maintenance costs and make informed asset management decisions. Explore the suite of financial planning resources provided by Federation of Canadian Municipalities:

- Video exploring the benefits of long-term financial planning
- Guides explaining how to write long-term plans and how levels of service lifecycle costing inform planning
- Customizable templates
- [Check out the resources today.](#)

WEBINARS

Ask Canoe Anything!

Join Canoe on October 30 for an open mic webinar sessions exclusively for **elected leaders and municipal staff** where Canoe regional representatives, including Andy Saxby, Ainsley Murdock, Kim Thiessen, Ryan Yavis, and Sarah Hubble, alongside other Canoe team members, will be on hand to answer all your questions around the **NSFM/Canoe Program**. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**. Register [here](#).

Construction Procurement

NSFM/Canoe-approved supplier, Gordian and the NIGP will host a joint webinar on Thursday October 31, on the latest trends and challenges in Canadian construction procurement. The session will cover best practices to drive efficiency and value in every project, share insights into optimizing procurement strategies, and highlight real-world expertise from leaders in the field. Register [here](#).

Fire Weather Projections

The Canadian Centre for Climate Services is presenting a webinar on the new **Fire Weather Projections App**: [Fire Weather – ClimateData.ca](#) Topics for discussion:

- How to access future climate data
- Understanding the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index System (FWI)
- Understanding the six index system components, season length, weather severity, and intensity
- Understanding how the app was developed and how it can be used
- Questions/answers
- November 6 @ 2 pm (Atlantic)
- Register [here](#)

Disaster Contingency Planning: Recording

NSFM and Canoe Procurement Group recently hosted a webinar providing insight on preparedness and effective disaster response strategies. The link between droughts, wildfires, and floods was explored. The value of proactive disaster preparedness and simple yet effective measures, including leveraging community resources, proper sandbag filling, storage for flood emergencies, and building key relationships with relevant stakeholders was discussed. Missed the webinar? You can view the webinar [here](#).

Contract & Procurement Fraud: Recording

Did you miss the recent session presented by the **NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program** on Contract & Procurement Fraud? The webinar, presented by Régina MacInnis and Rey Richards from the province's Internal Audit Centre discussed the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, prevent, and mitigate fraudulent activities within operational realities. Access the [slide deck](#) and listen to the [webinar](#).

RESOURCES

The magazine for the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**

[Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for the **Atlantic Region of Municipalities**



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
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