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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE



THE Changing Landscape OF Municipalities

NSFM Spring Conference
April 30 - May 2, 2025 • Truro, NS

Last chance to register!

Registration closes at 12 pm on April 25. Do not miss the informative sessions we have lined up:

- Creative Approaches to Citizen Engagement
- Emerging Issues Update from NSFM
- Five Thoughts for a Changing Municipal Landscape
- Municipal Climate Change Frontrunners
- Navigating Social Media as an Elected Official
- Networking Café
- NS Guard and Department of Emergency Management
- Practical Approaches to Inclusivity: Municipal Policies at Work
- Site Tour
- Transforming Surplus Infrastructure into Housing
- Truro Social Night!
- Updates on the Coastal Protection Action Plan and Department of Municipal Affairs

[VIEW THE PROGRAM DETAILS AND REGISTER HERE](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Coastal communities and property owners now have more tools and resources to protect themselves from the effects of climate change. The Province has released new example municipal land-use planning bylaws to help municipalities regulate development along the coast to safeguard homes and communities. The example bylaws were informed by ongoing consultation with NSFM and the municipalities they represent. Read the complete [news release](#).

[N.S. announces resources for coastal communities to protect themselves](#)
[Interview with President Pam Mood](#)

“This is a positive development that will support land-use planning in coastal areas. The \$1.3 million in funding is a significant investment and we thank the Province of Nova Scotia for their commitment to working with us and responding to the concerns of our members.” — Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Reminder: Complete Code of Conduct Module by April 30

We encourage all elected officials who have not yet completed the mandatory **Code of Conduct Online Module** not to wait to the last minute to complete the training. Particularly if you think you may need some assistance from NSCC with the login procedure.

- Deadline to complete the module is April 30 as required under provincial regulations
- If you have already completed the module, thank you — no further action is needed
- For those still needing to complete it:
 - **Register here:** [NSCC Online Registration Form](#)
 - Once registered, you will receive automatic emails from NSCC with instructions on how to access the module
- Login or password issues? Contact beth.mccormack@nsc.ca (include your NSCC student ID#)

Thank you for your attention to this important requirement.

NSFM Lunch & Learn Series!

We are kicking off our new monthly Lunch & Learn virtual sessions with **Trade Shifts & Economic Outlook**, a follow-up to our popular March session, with CIBC economist Andrew Grantham.

Join us online May 21 for a one-hour session starting at 12 noon as Andrew provides an update on the changing US trade environment, President Trump’s tariff policies, and the implications for Canada and Nova Scotia. He will also discuss rising recession risks both globally and in North America, expected monetary and fiscal policy responses, and whether there is any positive outlook for our local economy amid these shifts. This is the first of many Lunch & Learn virtual sessions from NSFM. Stay tuned for more!

- Registration required to receive the session link
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

FCM Election Website

Throughout this election campaign, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is advocating to all parties on the need to focus on the key issues affecting Canadians. FCM is advocating for a true National Prosperity Partnership in which all orders of government come together to build a stronger future for all. Explore key election priorities for Canadian municipalities of all sizes and find out how you can take action for local solutions to key national issues at FCM’s [election website](#).

2025 Property Tax Policy Conference

The 2025 Property Tax Policy Conference, organized by the International Property Tax Institute (IPTI) and Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), will be held in Halifax September 16 & 17. This event will share experiences from around the

and valuation. This is a great opportunity for municipal elected officials and administrative staff to discuss this crucial revenue source for local governments and the ongoing challenges that often prevent property tax systems from reaching their full potential.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Register– Property Tax Conference 2025: Policy and Practice](#)
- Information: RebeccaVorstermans@pvsc.ca

NS Mental Wellness Survey

Mental health, substance use, and gambling affect many, yet current data does not fully capture the challenges people face or the factors that support wellbeing. Recognizing that reliable data is essential for informing policies, programs, and services, the [WellNS](#) survey has launched. Please circulate in your networks. The survey is made possible through support from the NS Office of Addictions and Mental Health. More information:

- Visit www.wellnssurvey.ca
- Connect on [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#)
- Contact wellns_survey@cbu.ca

NEWS

[Additional funding announced to support GBV initiatives](#)

[Canada's policy reset needs to go much further than trade](#)

[Council decision to close public spring upsets Colchester residents](#)

[Digby Arena gets \\$1.5M from province for structural, mechanical upgrades](#)

[Does Antigonish need a new rec centre? Local group looks into it](#)

[Do you live in an area with poor cell coverage? Report it!](#)

[Halifax council approves billion-dollar budget](#)

[MODL mayor says budget process improved transparency, understanding](#)

[MODY develops strategic plan through 2029](#)

[Windsor flood zone residents urging action to address chronic issue](#)

[Yarmouth launching second deer survey](#)

FUNDING

Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFMD 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**.

- [Low Carbon Communities](#) open
- [Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund](#) – Communities Grant open
- [Planning Assistance Program](#) open
- [Recreation Community Development Grant](#) open
- [Community Recreation Capital Grant](#) open
- [Trail Engineering Assistance Grant Program](#) open
- [Charged](#) EV program, first-come, first-served basis
- [Emerging Destinations Program](#) open
- [Canada Retraining & Opportunities Initiative](#) applications accepted continuously
- [Commemorative Partnership Program](#) deadlines announced
- [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#) accepting projects for their free service
- [Reciprocity Health Fund](#) open

FCM Funding Opportunities

PROGRAMS

Agricultural Supply Program

Regardless of whether your organization has direct agricultural operations or not, reliable agricultural vehicles are core assets for many. Partnering with a variety of approved suppliers available across the country, the [NSFM/Canoe Agricultural Equipment Program](#) can help you source the equipment you need. Read about field ready deals from approved supplier [New Holland](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe MRO Supply Program

Maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) supplies such as nuts, bolts, hammers, wrenches, safety goggles, construction wear, cleaning supplies, and sanitation solutions are diverse and widely used throughout every organization. With great suppliers offering enormous catalogues, the [NSFM/Canoe MRO Program](#) gets you access to what you need. Read about disaster preparedness supplies from [Fastenal](#), an approved supplier of the program. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Keep 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. Refer to the latest promotions from [NAPA](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Auto Insurance Tips: Wildlife Road Safety

Does your auto policy cover animal collisions? If your auto policy includes comprehensive insurance, then you are covered for animal collisions. This coverage typically includes damage to your car caused by events out of your control, such as collisions with animals. However, comprehensive auto coverage is not mandatory. If you only have liability insurance, which primarily covers damage you cause others, you are generally not covered for animal collisions. Always ensure you talk with our insurance advisor and understand what type of coverage you have on your insurance policy. Read about our tips for [Wildlife Road Safety](#).

Learn more about the [NSFM Home & Auto Insurance Program](#) benefits and how BrokerLink can provide you with a free, no obligations insurance quote.

Park'N Fly Discount Program

The **NSFM/Park'N Fly Discount Program** is available for elected municipal leaders and municipal staff within the broader municipal sector. Under this program, you can receive an exclusive discount on the services of Park'N Fly for business or leisure travel at their Halifax Stanfield International Airport location and at six other locations across Canada. Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. **Park'N Fly offers a discount of up to 20% on airport parking.** [More information.](#)

WEBINARS

Webinar Recording: Let's Talk Tariffs

Did you miss the recent webinar on **Let's Talk Tariffs**, presented by **NSFM** and **Canoe Procurement Group**? The session provided an overview on recent tariff changes, an update on Canoe's response to tariff changes, and what is being done to support the municipal sector.

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

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

[Fall/Winter Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

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



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