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Monday Memo

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES**NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE****Session Spotlight:  
Transforming Surplus Infrastructure into Housing**

Vacant schools and underused government buildings across Nova Scotia are being reimagined as solutions to the housing crisis. Hear how municipalities like Westville and Pictou partnered with the NS Co-operative Council to transform surplus properties into energy-efficient housing, childcare centres, and community spaces. This session will explore lessons learned, practical steps for councils, and how your municipality can turn dormant assets into vibrant housing developments. Do not miss these inspiring, real-world success stories.

**Looking for more reasons to join us at NSFM's 2025 Spring Conference?**

- **Informative Sessions:** Gain key insights on citizen engagement, social media strategies, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies put into practice; sessions also focus on municipal leadership tackling climate change, providing elected officials with actionable tools to address local challenges and implement innovative solutions
- **Insightful Speakers:** Connect with industry experts, fellow municipal leaders, and forward-thinking changemakers from across Nova Scotia
- **Network and Collaborate:** Forge valuable connections with your peers and our inspiring speakers, fostering partnerships and collaboration opportunities

[PROGRAM DETAILS AND REGISTER HERE](#)**NEW & NOTEWORTHY**



## Introducing NSFM's New Lunch & Learn Series!

We are kicking off our new monthly Lunch & Learn virtual sessions with **Trade Shifts and 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 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](#).

## 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](http://www.wellnssurvey.ca)
- Connect on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#)
- Contact [wellns\\_survey@cbu.ca](mailto:wellns_survey@cbu.ca)

## NEWS

[Bridgewater passes budget with no change to tax rates](#)

[Deed transfer tax hike won't hurt cottage demand, real estate agency says](#)

[Former cop sues police chief and town of Amherst](#)

[Halifax launching shared e-bike, scooter pilot program](#)

[Halifax municipality buys barely anything from the U.S.](#)

[Municipality of Barrington selling off wind turbine](#)

[N.S. government asked municipalities to support Resource Dev. It hasn't happened](#)

[N.S. to ignore plebiscite, keep Port Hawkesbury's main street at three lanes](#)

[Nova Scotia will spend \\$250K on school garden programs](#)

[Unusually Active Hurricane Season in Store for the Atlantic: AccuWeather](#)

[Woman plans to sell home due to stress caused by town's expropriation](#)

## FUNDING

The NSFAM 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
  - Information session available, register [here](#)
- [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 and 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

FCM has you covered with the right type of project funding. Review the [grant page](#) for funding opportunities available for planning, studies, and pilot projects.

## PROGRAMS

### NEW: Building Supplies Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the [NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies Program](#). This program connects municipal units with Canadian-owned Home Hardware Building Centres (HHBC) and Home Building Centres (HBC) across Canada, providing high-quality materials, from fencing and insulation to drywall, roofing, and hardware, all at competitive, member-exclusive pricing. Whether tackling routine maintenance or large-scale projects, members can streamline procurement while keeping investments local. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

### Tariff FAQs: Navigate a Shifting Landscape

With trade landscapes rapidly changing, the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) remains a steady partner for the public sector. We understand that you may have questions about your procurement strategy. We aim to support and protect the interests of the municipal sector by providing flexible, compliant contracts that connect you with the right products and suppliers for your needs. [Learn more](#) about some of the key questions received from municipal units.

### NSFM/Canoe Supplier List: Updated

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the latest list of [new suppliers and renewed contracts](#). Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

### Built for Canada Program

In the midst of a rapidly changing trade landscape, the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) remains a steady partner for the public sector. Our goal is to support and protect the interests of the broader municipal sector by providing flexible, compliant contracts that connect you with the right products and suppliers for your needs. Please read about our new [Built for Canada](#) program and how the NSFAM/Canoe Procurement Program is [helping you navigate a shifting trade landscape](#). More information: [andy@canoeprocurement.ca](mailto:andy@canoeprocurement.ca)

### Insurance Tips: Spring Maintenance

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

The season is changing and there is much to do to get ready for spring and summer. Please refer to our [Spring Maintenance Tips](#).

## WEBINARS

### Let's Talk Tariffs: Recording

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.

- [Webinar Link](#)
- Access Code: Tw41Q!KM

### Fuel Management: Recording

The **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program** provides you with cost-effective, complaint purchasing options. If you missed the recent Gilbarco webinar, you can still access the recording. The webinar shares case studies on recent fuel management projects, provides details on new technology options coming to the market, and is offered courtesy of [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#). To view the webinar, click [Gilbarco/Canoe Procurement Group | LAS](#)

## 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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