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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

2025 NSFM SEASONAL PHOTO CONTEST



Put Your Municipality in the Spotlight This Spring & Summer!

NSFM invites municipalities to capture and share the unique charm of their communities through stunning seasonal photography. Selected images may be featured on the NSFM website, across our social media platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram, Bluesky), and in key publications such as the NSFM Annual Report, *Municipal Observer*, and *Atlantic Municipal Magazine*.

How to Enter:

Submit one high-resolution (300 dpi) photo that highlights the spirit of your municipality during the spring or summer seasons.

Deadline: August 29 @ 4:00 pm

Email entries to: communications@nsfm.ca

All eligible submissions will be entered into a draw to win **one free registration** to NSFM's Fall Conference — a prize valued at **\$750**.

Capture your community. Share your pride. You could win!



NSFM is currently hiring for:

The position of **Grant Coordinator** with the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund. To learn more and apply, please visit: [Click here](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Earlier this month, FCM submitted pre-budget recommendations to the House of Commons Finance Committee. Budget 2025 comes at a pivotal time for Canadians and local governments have a strategic role in Canada's success. These recommendations support the vision for a stronger Canada, from building 500,000 new homes a year, to putting in place major new infrastructure, boosting rural Canada, and ensuring a strong and resilient economy. Read the submission [here](#).

Road Salt Procurement

Public Services & Procurement Canada (PSPC) kindly asks any municipal units that procure sodium chloride for use as a road de-icer to pass the following along to their suppliers. PSPC has posted the following [solicitation: E6HAL_240009 Road Salt](#) on behalf Parks Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, and the Department of National Defence.

This requirement is for the supply, delivery, and unloading (including stockpiling inside storage facilities) of road salt, to various federal departments and agencies in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Deadline: September 3.

More information: Kristopher.Viens@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

NEWS

[Canada must improve environmental reviews to speed major projects](#)

[CBRM surplus spending includes big-ticket items](#)

[Cheaper Marine Atlantic fares a win-win for CBRM: mayor](#)

[Invasive plants are growing in a Wolfville park](#)

[NS rejects Hfx regional plan, says it doesn't 'go far enough' to improve housing](#)

[Pictou County warden says lower ferry and bridge tolls good start but falls short](#)

[SPCA ends some municipal by-law contracts](#)

[Yarmouth mayor encourages water conservation during dry spell](#)

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**

- [Culture Innovation Fund](#): Supports innovative arts, culture and heritage projects that strengthen organizational capacity and enhance community access. Up to \$50,000 available. Continuous intake.

buildings. Continuous intake.

- [Community Housing Infrastructure and Repair Program](#): Offers forgivable loans for capital repairs to preserve affordable units in co-operative and non-profit housing. Continuous intake.
- [Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program](#) (Department of Municipal Affairs) is now open.
 - Application Deadline: October 9, 2025.

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

Launch: HR Covered

The NSFM is pleased to announce a new affinity program with [HR Covered](#). HR Covered is the largest Canadian-owned HR service provider in the country. They offer our municipal units HR experts who help make managing people and processes simple and cover all avenues, at a fraction of the cost. Backed by the extensive experience of certified and qualified HR leaders, HR Covered is the most sought after HR solution in the country. Municipal units in Nova Scotia now have access to great HR offerings at **no-charge** (the following services are **free** to municipal units), including:

- Unlimited access to the HR Hub document library containing 1000+HR documents, policies, and forms: to access, simply [register here](#)
- Access to engaging webinars on various HR related topics, explore the [webinar schedule](#) and sign up for events of interest
- Compliant policy manual to protect your organization
- HR Covered will create and review your new manual, address legislative compliance, and pinpoint any HR vulnerabilities; [book a meeting](#) to get your **complementary policy manual** created today
- [Click here for more information](#)

In addition, HR Covered offers a range of unlimited access services, for a preferential rate. More information, review the [HR Covered Core Services Document](#).

- Online Legislative Training
- HR Advice and Support from Certified HR Professionals
- Custom Document Creation
- Occupational Health & Safety Support
- Employment Law Advice, Documentation and Support from Employment Lawyers

More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

HR Covered is a [program partner](#) of NSFM

different mechanically from internal combustion engines. [Learn more about the key differences to maintaining EVs and considerations.](#) [Enterprise Fleet Management](#) is a partner of the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply

Recreation spaces knit communities together. Whether building a new playground, developing a spray park, creating outdoor fitness options, or even upgrading an existing play space, the [NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply Program](#) can help find quality products and competitive prices for every municipal unit. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Trench Safety

The [NSFM/Canoe Road & Trench Safety Program](#) offers trench safety systems that can help you avoid costly downtime and ensure compliance with local safety regulations. With the largest fleet of shoring and excavation rental equipment in North America, along with training and certification programs, [United Rentals](#) provides customized solutions to meet all your trench safety needs. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Municipal HST Offset Grants Issued

The 2025-26 Municipal HST Offset Grants have been finalized. The grant is based on the submissions from municipalities collected by NSFM this past spring. As a result of this NSFM Program, \$6 million in funding will be issued to municipalities across Nova Scotia this month by the Municipal Finance Team at Department of Municipal Affairs. Thank you to DMA staff for their assistance with this program and thank you to all 49 municipalities who submitted their information to qualify for the grant.

In 1998, NSFM negotiated the Municipal HST Offset Program with the province, intended to lessen the financial impact on municipalities paying the HST. Since then, the program has provided approximately \$150 million to municipalities. Payments are based on municipal expenditures in the previous year.

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 of insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value. Learn about the [program](#) benefits and how BrokerLink can provide you with a **free, no-obligations insurance quote.**

This three-hour online interactive session dives into practical strategies for strengthening the council/CAO relationship, including setting clear expectations, improving communication, conducting effective performance reviews, and navigating political-administrative roles. Walk away with real tools, shared frameworks, and alignment practices you can apply immediately to build trust and drive strategic leadership in your organization. Explore collaborative leadership strategies with:

- Gordon McIntosh – local government leadership facilitator
- George Cuff – author of “*The CAO*”
- Sheila Bassi-Kellet – Former City Manager, Yellowknife
- Pam Mood – Mayor of Yarmouth and NSFM President
- September 23 @ 1 pm
- Cost: \$135 per person
- [More information](#)
- [Register here](#)

RESOURCES

Summer Municipal Observer

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

Spring/Summer Atlantic Municipal Magazine

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



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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Suite #1500, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

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