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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

MUNICIPAL OBSERVER WINTER 2025

Municipal  **Observer**

The Magazine for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



Let's Build the Housing Nova
Scotians Deserve

Local focus, Lasting Impact:
NSFM Fall Conference 2025
a Great Success!

WINTER 2025

Explore the Winter 2025 Edition

Dive into thoughtful analysis, community perspectives, and timely municipal updates. This issue brings forward the ideas and stories shaping local leadership across Nova Scotia.

[READ MORE](#)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Are you an elected municipal leader or a staff member looking to make an impact?

Joining an NSFM Advisory Committee allows you to:

- Build valuable connections
- Contribute to the direction of municipalities in Nova Scotia
- Learn how committees operate
- Share your expertise

NSFM is now accepting applications for the following Advisory Committees:

- [Climate Change Committee](#)
 - Two elected officials
 - One CAO
- [Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee](#)
 - One elected official
- [Municipal Infrastructure Committee](#)
 - Three elected officials
- [Municipal Autonomy Committee](#)
 - One elected official
 - One CAO

To apply: Submit an expression of interest outlining relevant experience to imorrison@nsfm.ca

Deadline: January 16, 2026

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

When Rehabilitation Expenses Are Not “Health Care”

In a recent court action, a hospital transfer driver injured in a workplace motor vehicle accident sought to recover WorkSafeBC-funded vocational rehabilitation expenses as part of a damages claim. The [B.C. Court of Appeal ruled](#) that these expenses do not qualify as “health care” under the Workers Compensation Act, and are recoverable only if proven reasonable and necessary.

[HR Covered](#) is a program partner of NSFM. Reach out to the advisory team if you need more information on this item, as well as many other great HR resources offered at **no-charge** to municipal units in NS. More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

[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. The following service offerings are available **for free** to all municipal units:

- [Register](#) for unlimited access to the HR Hub document library
- [Engaging webinars](#) on various HR related topics
- [Book a meeting](#) to get your **complementary policy manual** created today
- [Program information](#)
- More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

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

NEWS

[Canada launches new alert system to protect people in extreme weather](#)

[Colchester mayor promises overview of Truro community centre controversy](#)

[Development proposed for former Yarmouth tourist bureau](#)

[Municipality of the District of Guysborough protests hike in property assessment fees](#)

[New panel taps industry leaders to launch Atlantic economic growth](#)

[N.S. government has no plans to consider guaranteed basic income](#)

[N.S. libraries ask users to contact MLAs, municipalities about impending cuts](#)

[Pictou-Antigonish libraries may cut hours, programs and services](#)

[Recreation program planning could be improved: HRM auditor general](#)

[Truro community centre CEO 'deeply disappointed' by county decision](#)

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

Applications are now open for:

- [Community ACCESS-Ability Program](#): The program offers provincial grants covering up to two-thirds of eligible accessibility upgrades (to a maximum of \$50,000) for community facilities, including improvements to the built environment, transportation and communications.
Deadline: February 14, 2026
- [Community Facilities Improvement Program](#): The program provides support for repairs and improvements to existing community facilities, including building exteriors, interior features and energy-efficiency upgrades.
Deadline: February 14, 2026
- [Connect2 Program](#): The program provides funding up to \$100,000 for active transportation projects that improve connectivity, reduce emissions and increase opportunities for walking and cycling.
Deadline: Expression of Interest – January 9, 2026

New Funding Opportunities Added to the Portal:

- [Student Work Placement Program](#): Federal wage subsidy that helps employers hire domestic post-secondary students for paid work-integrated learning placements. Employers can receive 50–70% of student wages (up to \$5,000–\$7,000 per placement) through SWPP delivery partners.
Deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis
- [Age-friendly Communities Grant](#): Provides provincial funding for projects and planning that help older Nova Scotians stay active, healthy and engaged in their communities.
Deadline: Currently closed. Future intakes are expected but have not yet been announced.
- [Civil Forfeiture Grant Program](#): Provincial one-time funding supporting victims of crime and crime prevention initiatives across Nova Scotia, funded from forfeited property seized by law enforcement.
Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- [Crime Prevention Community Grant](#): Provincial funding up to \$12,000 annually for youth-directed crime prevention programs supporting recreational, educational and after-school programming.
Deadline: 2025-26 intake is closed (late applications typically considered

Information Sessions:

- **Turning climate adaptation plans into projects (webinar):** Green Municipal Fund (GMF) is hosting a webinar on turning climate adaptation plans into tangible infrastructure projects.
Date: December 11, 2025
Time: 03:00 PM Atlantic
Location: Online
Free Registration: [Register here](#)

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

Janitorial Supply

Keep your facilities clean and safe with the [NSFM/Canoe Janitorial Supply Program](#). From cleaning supplies to [floor cleaning](#), the program provides everything you need to create a healthy environment for your staff and visitors at competitive rates. This program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Pest Control

The [NSFM/Canoe Pest Control Program](#) will keep your buildings and worksites pest-free and ensure that pests do not come back. Connect with our pest control approved suppliers already tendered on your behalf. When looking for efficient and effective control of bugs and rodents, get your professional extermination services through NSFM/Canoe. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Firefighting Apparatus

Emergency responders are at the forefront of critical operations and safety during wildfires is paramount. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting PPE Program](#), access

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. 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.

Managing Risks: Climate Resilient Shorelines for Canada

Canada's coastal communities play a vital role in sustaining our economy, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. These environments face amplified pressures as climate change accelerates. Stronger storms, fluctuating sea and lake levels, and thawing permafrost are increasing flooding and erosion, testing the resilience of communities across the country. Despite growing awareness, Canada's preparedness for these impacts remains uneven.

The Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation has released [Managing Risks: Climate Resilient Shorelines for Canada](#). This report outlines practical strategies aligned with Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, providing a consistent, a long-term framework for shoreline governance. The guidance aims to strengthen climate resilience across Canada's coastal communities.

The **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation** is an education partner of the NSFM Municipal Insurance Program.

Park'N Fly Discount

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

NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

HRM is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. The representatives on the Board of Directors for this region are:

- Councillor John Young john.young@halifax.ca
- Councillor Sam Austin sam.austin@halifax.ca

WEBINARS

Recap: Municipalities Keep Electric Fleets Charged

Siemens, a partner in the **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program** presented on how to ensure electric vehicles in your municipal fleet are able to stay charged. Representatives from the City of Toronto shared their experience in adapting their fleets and facilities to support EVs. The recording of the webinar, courtesy of [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#), is available at the following link:

[Keep Electric Fleets Charged - 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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