

[View this email in your browser](#)

Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

BOARD RETREAT 2026



Board of Directors Retreat

The NSFM Board conducted a Board Retreat in Fall River on January 23 & 24 for new and returning Board members. The topics discussed at retreat included:

- Environmental Scan of the Current Landscape

- Good Governance & Advocacy Training
- Orientation to the NSFM Board
- Strengthening Board Roles & Relations
- Team Building/Decompression Exercise
- Visioning & Planning Session

CALL FOR MUNICIPAL SUCCESS STORIES

Practical, Innovative Ideas That Make an Impact

NSFM is seeking affordable, adaptable success stories from municipalities across Nova Scotia to feature at the **2026 Spring Conference**. Selected submissions will be showcased during a dedicated session on **Thursday, April 30, 9:00–10:00 am**, at the **Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth**.

We aim to highlight **2–3 initiatives**—new or ongoing—that demonstrate innovation and deliver meaningful results.

Submit a short summary by 4:30 pm, Friday, February 13 to: **Judy Webber**, Director of Events and Member Development (JWebber@nsfm.ca)

Help inspire peers and share ideas that other municipalities can take home and apply.

CALLING WINNER OF THE BLUE JAYS TICKETS

Did You Win the Blue Jays Tickets at Fall Conference?

Intact wants to connect with the recipient of the Blue Jays tickets drawn at the November Fall Conference. If you were the winner, please contact jwebber@nsfm.ca for ticket details.

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Join us on Wednesday, February 18 (12:00 - 1:00 pm) for NSFM's Monthly Lunch & Learn. This session explores how to embed meaningful access into new construction projects from the outset. Using the [Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ \(RHFAC\)](#) program as a framework, we will discuss practical strategies for navigating complex design and development processes – including stakeholder alignment, legislative requirements, site constraints, and budget pressures.

Guest Speakers: Uli Egger Sr. Specialist, Strategic Partnerships & Outreach Rick Hansen Foundation and Henry Chen Principal Architect Hygge Architecture

[Register here](#)

CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND (CCBF)

CCBF Program Support Now Operational

In 2024, the provincial and federal governments signed a new 10-year agreement for the Canada Community-Building Fund. The new agreement places special emphasis on creating conditions for housing, while continuing to cover a full range of eligible infrastructure categories.

The agreement includes requirements around communicating CCBF projects to the public. To reduce the burden in meeting these requirements, NSFM has hired a CCBF Program Coordinator to serve as a resource and work with municipalities and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Do you have a CCBF project you would like to promote? Contact Charlene Boyce, CCBF Program Coordinator: cboyce@nsfm.ca or 902-483-6784.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Municipal Climate Adaptation Certificate

The [Municipal Climate Adaptation Certificate](#), offered by the University of Waterloo's Climate Institute, is an affordable, forward-thinking initiative tailored for municipal

staff and elected officials across Canada. Developed in collaboration with leading experts in climate adaptation, this certificate is delivered online, designed for a range

of roles, and offers practical, expert-led courses available in both English and French. The project is carried out with funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund and the Government of Canada.

- More information: climateinstitute@uwaterloo.ca
- [Register here](#) for our one hour online Info Session on February 26 @ 3 pm



NS Quality of Life Survey

In February, [Engage Nova Scotia](#) and the [Canadian Index of Wellbeing](#) will be launching the largest Quality of Life population survey in North America. For municipal governments this represents an opportunity to gather data about topics impacting your residents. Nova Scotians can help make life better for themselves and their communities by completing the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey. Encourage your residents to complete the survey. More info: mknezacek@engagenovascotia.ca

Share your Story. Take the Survey. Seed our Future.



Performance Management vs Progressive Discipline

When an employee is struggling, it can be hard to know what to do next. Do you coach, warn, or initiate the discipline process? The [enclosed article](#) explains why

navigating real-world people issues.

[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 Services Program

[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:

- [HR Hub document library](#)
- [Engaging webinars](#)
- [Complementary policy manual](#)
- [Program information](#)
- More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

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

Study on Women in Local Government

In partnership with the NSFM, Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women and Politics (St. Francis Xavier University) and her team are studying women's experience in municipal officeholding, with a particular focus on their tenure in and exit from politics. Women politicians are leaving office earlier than men at other levels of Canadian government, but this has not been explored at the municipal level. The research is now entering the outreach phase in which women who previously held municipal office will be contacted to participate in confidential, open-ended interviews to discuss their experience in municipal government.

- More information: rwallace@stfx.ca

[CBRM ends talks with developer after tie vote](#)

[Cape Breton man's outdoor rink build stopped by CBRM](#)

[Halifax expands community crisis service to 24/7 support](#)

[Halifax council sides with Uber on proposal for oversight of ride-hailing companies](#)

[Kentville residents voice concerns about homeless situation](#)

[Municipalities brace for 'belt tightening' as provincial budget looms](#)

[Municipality of Barrington 'frustrated and embarrassed' over rec centre delays](#)

[Northern lights seen over the Maritimes](#)

[NSFM President says communication failures worsened latest power outage](#)

[Opening of relocated Lower Truro spring expected in coming months](#)

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. The Municipal Funding Database is now a full **Funding Portal**. Visit the new portal: nsfunding.ca.

New Funding Opportunity Added to the Portal:

- [Wellness Fund](#): Provincial grants of \$500–\$3,500 for community projects that address social determinants of health. Funded through Nova Scotia's Community Health Boards, the program supports upstream health initiatives including intergenerational activities, food literacy, and social connection projects.
 - **Application window:** February 16 – April 15, 2026

Update to an Existing Program:

- [Energy Innovation Program – Off-Site Construction Challenge \(Stream 2\)](#) is now open. Federal funding for projects demonstrating innovative off-site construction methods for energy-efficient multi-unit residential buildings. Phase

- **Deadline:** March 27, 2026

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Technology

The world is connected at every level. The [NSFM/Canoe Technology Program](#) keeps your organization running smoothly with technology solutions including computers, printers, network server equipment, communication software, cloud computing technology, and more, all designed to meet your unique needs. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Fitness Supply

Procuring fitness equipment can be a marathon of work. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Fitness Supply Program](#), your municipal unit has access to plenty of options and sources to assist with your gym or recreation facilities need. The program provides a simplified process at best-value pricing and works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Fireproof Your Organization

Discover how the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting Equipment Program](#), [Firefighting PPE Program](#), and [Firefighting Apparatus Program](#) equip your emergency responders with the best tools and gear to keep your community safe. Whether essential firefighting equipment like emergency lights, sirens, ladders, pumps, power tools, and bush trucks, or protective gear including bunker gear, gas masks, SCBA, helmets, boots, and gloves, the program ensures your team is prepared for every challenge. The programs provides reliable, high-performance equipment with a simplified procurement process and competitive rates. Explore these programs and keep your community fire-ready. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

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. Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. Did you know that

winning a coupon for a one-time free use of Park'N Fly? Email: imorrison@nsfm.ca by February 13 to qualify.

WEBINARS

What's Trending in Cybersecurity

Nova Scotia's municipalities build and maintain the infrastructure and services that drive provincial economic resilience, yet they face growing challenges, from safeguarding against cyber threats to navigating economic uncertainty and changing needs of the workforce. [Property Valuation Services Corporation](#) presents a one-hour webinar to learn actionable insights and strategies on cybersecurity, planning for social and economic impacts of growth, and workforce trends.

- February 11 @ 10 am
- Register [here](#)

Demystifying Job Order Contracting

In this 90-minute webinar presented by the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#), join us for an engaging Job Order Contracting (JOC) webinar where Micheal Bevis, past Chair of the Centre for Job Order Contracting Certification Council, will introduce procurement practitioners, employees with procurement responsibilities, and facility managers to this collaborative, high-performance contracting model designed specifically for renovations, repairs, and minor construction.

- February 12 @ 3 pm
 - [Register Here](#)
-



Recap: Quality of Life Survey

Did you miss the recent Engage NS webinar "Launching the Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey in Your Community"? You can view the webinar recording [here](#).

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**



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



Suite #1500, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).