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## Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES



### WE STAND TOGETHER

The past week has been a difficult one for Canadians coast to coast. Our thoughts are with the district municipality of Tumbler Ridge, including their leadership and staff, as well as agencies, personnel, and leadership at all levels of government; service/volunteer agencies; and brave first responders as they deal with this tragedy.

We are thankful for the first responders and volunteers that have provided and continue to provide support to those affected. We are inspired by the sense of kindness that exists within Canada.

### ADVOCACY IN ACTION: MENTAL HEALTH

In the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia's (FSANS) review of fire prevention services, supporting firefighter safety and mental well-being was a top concern. NSFM supports the call for proactive, consistent access to mental health resources for firefighters, in recognition of the critical and often high stress work they perform. NSFM looks forward to continued discussion on the [agreeable points in the FSANS Review](#), as well as further information on areas requiring additional assessment. By working with members, the provincial government, and other partners, NSFM aims to foster the collaboration necessary to reach the next chapter of fire prevention services in Nova Scotia.

## NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

### Conference Accommodations Now Open

The NSFM 2026 Spring Conference will take place **April 29–May 1** at the **Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth**. Accommodations are now open for booking.

The conference will begin with a **Meet & Greet reception on April 29 @ 7:30 pm** and conclude at **noon on May 1**. The program is currently being finalized and will include sessions on municipal success stories, stormwater strategy, policing review updates, emergency management, AI in local government, dark skies and astro tourism, and more.

Room blocks are available at the Rodd Grand Hotel, Comfort Inn Yarmouth, and Tru by Hilton Yarmouth, with special conference rates held through late March. **To view accommodation details and conference updates [click here](#)**

Please continue to watch the *Monday Memo* for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Yarmouth.

## LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

**2025 Nova Scotia Mental Wellness Survey**

by more than 13,000 responses across Nova Scotia.

Presenters from WellNS Research will share key findings, discuss implications for municipalities, and highlight opportunities to support evidence-informed local planning.

**Guest Speakers:** Rebecca Todd, CBU School of Nursing and Jenna MacQueen, Nova Scotia Health & CBU

[Register here](#)

## CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND (CCBF)

### CCBF Program Support

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](mailto:cboyce@nsfm.ca) or 902-483-6784.

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### NS Quality of Life Survey

This month, [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

[mknezacek@engagenovascotia.ca](mailto:mknezacek@engagenovascotia.ca)

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



## Managing Risks: Wetlands a Defence Against a Riskier Future

Anabela Bonada, [Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation](#), and Sarah Hasenack, [Ontario Nature](#), wrote an op-ed for Canada's *National Observer*: [Wetlands are a natural solution to basement flooding](#). The article argues that wetlands provide one of the most effective and affordable ways to reduce flood risk in communities.

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

## NEWS

[3 municipal units in Shelburne continue to talk amalgamation](#)

[Canada's wildfire paradox: fewer fires, greater destruction highlighted in new analysis](#)

[CBRM council considers hiring consultant for workshop on port development](#)

[CBRM firefighters say it's important they keep responding to medical emergencies](#)

[Community book clubs may come to Inverness County](#)

[Ice replacement to close part of Mariners Centre through spring/summer](#)

[Lunenburg honours Gloucester after deadly fishing tragedy](#)

[Mayor Morgan leads Big City Mayors about accelerating infrastructure funding](#)

[New campaign seeks to stop proposed Halifax property tax hike](#)

[Woman dies after being hit by snowplow in Truro parking lot](#)

## FUNDING

### Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

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. The Municipal Funding Database is now a full **Funding Portal**. Visit the new portal: [nsfunding.ca](https://nsfunding.ca).

#### Applications are now open for:

- [Capital Project: Retrofit of Existing Municipal Buildings](#): Funding for municipalities to retrofit existing municipal and community buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions. Up to \$10 million (combined loan + grant).  
**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round
- [Student Work Placement Program](#): Federal wage subsidy program providing up to 70% of wages (max \$7,000) for employers hiring post-secondary students for work-integrated learning placements.  
**Deadline:** March 31, 2026

## PROGRAMS

### Agricultural Supply

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. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

### Trench Safety

regulations. With the largest fleet of shoring and excavation rental equipment in North America, along with training and certification programs, the program provides customized solutions to meet all your trench safety needs and works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## NSFM/Canoe Equipment Rental

The [NSFM/Canoe Equipment Rental Program](#) gives you access to cost-effective ways to access a huge variety of tools. With a network of top suppliers and an extensive catalogue including everything from aerial lifts and power generators to pickup trucks and earthmoving vehicles, there is something for every need. [United Rentals](#) offers power and HVAC rental solutions. Whether facing an emergency or planning a project, United Rentals has the equipment to meet all your needs with an extensive catalog of industrial generators, power distribution panels, portable heaters, air conditioners, and more. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## Free Trade & Labour Mobility in Canada Act

In June, the federal government tabled legislation introducing the [Free Trade & Labour Mobility in Canada Act](#) as part of Bill C-5 to promote free trade and labour mobility by removing federal barriers to the interprovincial movement of goods and services within Canada. The *Act* came into effect on January 1 and is designed to make it easier for organizations and Canadians to buy, sell, and transport goods and services across the country.

[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](mailto:partnerships@hrcovered.com)

## HR Services

[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:

- [Complementary policy manual](#)
- [Program information](#)
- More info: [partnerships@hrcovered.com](mailto:partnerships@hrcovered.com)

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

## Municipal HST Offset Applications Available Soon

The 2026-27 Municipal HST Offset Grant applications will be sent to your municipality **later this month**. The grant is based on the submissions from municipalities collected by NSFM and as a result of this NSFM Program, \$6 million in funding will be issued to municipalities across Nova Scotia in 2026.

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**.

## 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. Many travellers are taking advantage of the travel season this summer, including those on your team! Now is the perfect time to help them get the best value on airport parking. Travel smart from the start with the fastest and most convenient way to park and fly.

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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