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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Meetings that Matter: Governance, Strategy & Public Trust

In-Person Workshop for Elected Officials March 30 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Municipal meetings are where leadership is tested and public trust is built. As fiscal pressures and expectations grow, how councils conduct meetings directly demonstrates professionalism, accountability, and readiness to partner.

This interactive session provides practical tools to strengthen meeting structure, clarify roles, manage difficult moments, and use council meetings to showcase effective leadership. Through real-world scenarios and peer discussion, participants will leave with strategies they can apply immediately.

Presenters: Kristan Hines and Erin Norwood MacLeod, NATIONAL Public Relations

Click [HERE](#) for further details and Click [HERE](#) to register. Registration closes March 26 @ 12 noon.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Public Library Funding Becomes an NSFM Advocacy Priority

The Equity & Community Well-Being Committee has been closely monitoring concerns around public library funding. Four municipalities have formally asked

on this issue. Given this strong support from members, the Committee recommended that public library funding be elevated to an NSFM advocacy priority. The Board approved this recommendation at its February 6 meeting. For the second time in 8 months, a letter has been sent to Minister Ritcey (CCTH) outlining the concerns raised by municipalities, the need for sustainable long-term funding, and requesting information on the status of the 2024 library funding review. The Committee will continue to monitor developments and support this advocacy work as it moves forward.

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](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Job Opportunity

Please see below for the following job opportunity for the **NSFM**:

- **Position:** Fund Navigator
- **Posting Detail:** [Click Here](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Rural Roads Committee Members Needed

As part of the analysis of rural roads within Schedule “A” of the Service Exchange Renegotiation and Municipal Government Act Review (SERMGAR), NSFM is seeking four elected leaders to sit on a joint Provincial/NSFM Rural Roads Committee.

Are you an elected municipal leader from a rural municipality looking to make an impact in this area? Committee details:

- Seeking four leaders from rural/regional municipalities with an understanding of current landscape
- This is an active working committee
- Work of the committee is expected to conclude by the end of August 2026

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

Deadline: March 6 @ 4:30 pm

Atlantic Heavy Equipment Show

The Atlantic Heavy Equipment Show gathers thousands of industry professionals, representing the heavy equipment, road building, forestry, snow & ice and municipality sectors from across Atlantic Canada and beyond. This is the chance to connect with industry experts and learn about the latest innovations and trends. With a powerful lineup of cutting-edge equipment on display, this show delivers everything you need to tackle even the toughest jobs.

Interested in attending? Leaders & staff in the broader municipal sector can take advantage of a **complementary 2-day pass** to the event. Feel free to share this invitation with others in your organization.

- Moncton Coliseum
- March 26 & 27
- Promo Code: NSFM
- [Link to complementary two-day pass](#)
- More info: EmilyA@mpeshows.com



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

Encourage your residents to complete the survey. More info: 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

[CBRM residents frustrated by high property assessment rates](#)

[Clare, U Sainte-Anne form new partnership](#)

[Coastal Infrastructure Funding Announcement](#)

[Funding to Help Restore Historic African Nova Scotian Church as Community Hub](#)

[Halifax council considers raising transit fares, fast-tracking new buses](#)

[Halifax council seeks report on cost-saving alternatives to AAA bike network](#)

[Investigation into N.S. fire truck collision with snowmobiler concludes without charges](#)

[Nominations open to recognize volunteers in Inverness County](#)[‘Nothing short of transformational’: Plymouth centre initiates chain of green retrofits](#)[Spring session of N.S. Legislature expected to open with new budget](#)

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.

A New Funding Opportunity Added to the Portal:

[HCi3 Grant Program](#): Grants for community-driven climate projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with two streams funding up to \$10,000 (Catalyst Stream) and \$75,000 (Acceleration Stream).

- o **Application deadline:**

- Catalyst Stream: Rolling (until funds are allocated)

- Acceleration Stream: Spring intake (EOI Mar 23) and Fall intake (EOI Oct 5)

- o **Information Sessions:**

- February 25 @ 2:00 pm | [Register here](#)

- February 26 @ 10:00 am | [Register here](#)

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Supplier List: Updates

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the updated list of [new and approved suppliers for February](#). Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that

Why Does Cold & Flu Cleaning Matter?

Absences caused by cold and flu cost Canadian businesses over \$1 billion every year. Managing cold and flu is about more than reducing absenteeism. Regardless of facility type, preparing for cold and flu season is critical for minimizing the spread of pathogens, keeping operations running, and promoting the health and wellbeing of all building occupants. [Bunzl](#), an approved supplier in the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) has put together a [cold and flu cleaning guide](#) as a resource for your organization.

NSFM/Canoe Keeps Your Fleet Moving

With the [NSFM/Canoe Auto Parts Program](#) partners auto part suppliers to make your budget go further. The program is designed for both small and large fleet customers with extensive coverage in the automotive aftermarket. Suppliers are available to support you and your fleet with inventory support, cost analysis, and reporting to ensure that you always understand your spend and where it's going. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Guide to Sick Days in Canada

Did you know that several provinces and federally regulated workplaces have recently updated when employers can request sick notes? In Nova Scotia and federally regulated workplaces, rules now limit medical certificate requests for short absences, reducing unnecessary doctor visits and protecting employee privacy. In [this article](#), we break down sick leave entitlements and documentation rules across Canada, highlight common compliance pitfalls, and explain practical steps to keep your policies up to date.

[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

Municipal HST Offset Grant Applications Now Available

The 2026-27 Municipal HST Offset Grant applications have been issued to your municipality. The grant is based on the submissions from municipalities collected by

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.

- Deadline for submission: April 2
- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca

Insurance for Municipal 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. [More information.](#)

WEBINARS

Give to Gain: Advancing Women in Local Government National Panel – International Women's Day 2026

Join leaders from across Canada for a national panel sharing personal stories, strategies, and actionable insights on overcoming barriers and building inclusion in local government. Under the theme **“Give to Gain,”** panelists will explore how mentorship, knowledge sharing, and reciprocity drive progress for women in leadership and their communities. This webinar is for women in local government, allies, and anyone interested in fostering inclusive leadership. Gain practical resources and inspiration to make a difference in your own sphere of influence.

Date & Time: Friday March 6 @ 2:00 pm (AST)

2026 Panelists: Tracey Lorenson, Facilitator; Jody Murray, City Manager, Town of Labrador City, NL; Denise Corry, CAO, Town of Huntsville, ON; Anna Mathewson, CAO, City of Port Moody, BC; Michele Charles Gustafson, Confidence & Success Coach & Image Consultant

[Click Here](#) to register today and be part of the conversation!

NSFM presents this one-hour webinar as part of a flood adaptation series funded by DMA. Municipal engineers, planners, and other staff are key players in facilitating stormwater management while balancing the many competing demands of infrastructure planning. Join leaders from West Hants, Berwick, and Kentville as they provide insight into creating and updating stormwater strategies that tackle regulatory compliance, population growth, flood risk, and sustainability and discuss infrastructure funding options, municipal technical capacity, and asset management technologies used in operations and maintenance.

- March 12 @ 1:30 pm
- Register [here](#)

Recap: Integrating Meaningful Access from the Ground Up

Guided by the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) framework, presenters shared practical strategies to help municipalities and project teams navigate stakeholder alignment, legislative requirements, site constraints, and budget pressures — while keeping accessibility central to project design and delivery. Participants gained valuable insights into creating inclusive built environments and advancing accessibility through thoughtful planning and collaboration. Special thanks to our guest speakers Uli Egger, Rick Hansen Foundation and Henry Chen, Hygge Architecture. [Click here](#) to review session.

Recap: Construction Costs

Did you miss the recent webinar on **Construction Costs Trends** presented by [NSFM/Canoe](#) and Gordian? The session discussed construction cost trends, cataloging the price movements of key materials like lumber, steel, and copper, the ways AI is cropping up in construction, and comments from experts about the market in 2026. Access the [webinar recording](#).

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

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



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