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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, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

NSFM 2026 Spring Conference – Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the NSFM 2026 Spring Conference, taking place April 29–May 1 in Yarmouth at the Rodd Grand Hotel. This year’s program brings together municipal leaders, staff, and partners from across Nova Scotia to explore practical solutions, share insights, and strengthen collaboration across our communities. View the site & register [HERE](#).

What to Expect:

- **Municipal Success Stories** from Pictou County, Town of Yarmouth, and Town of Wolfville
- **Key provincial updates**, including Municipal Affairs, Emergency Management (tbc), Policing Review, Environment & Climate Change, and Natural Resources
- **Timely conference sessions**, from drought response and astro-tourism to stormwater strategy and AI for local government
- **Networking opportunities**, including the Meet & Greet, the Destination Host Event, and dedicated breaks for connecting with peers
- **A strong lineup of presenters, panels, and practical discussions** focused on the issues shaping our municipalities today and in the years ahead

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PROGRAM & REGISTER](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Yarmouth this spring!

2025 Nova Scotia Mental Wellness Survey

Join NSFM on Thursday, March 12 (12:00–1:00 p.m.) for a virtual Lunch & Learn exploring early insights from the 2025 Nova Scotia Mental Wellness Survey, informed 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](#)

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Town of Westville Job Opportunity

Please see below for the following job opportunity for the **Town of Westville**:

- **Position:** Chief Administrative Officer
- **Deadline:** March 6
- **Posting Detail:** [Click here](#)
- **Questions:** lennie.white@westville.ca

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Study on Exploring Fraud Responsibility: A Municipal Perspective

Researchers at [Saint Mary's University](#) are seeking to comprehend how municipal actors understand their responsibilities over fraud prevention and detection. The results of our study are expected to identify best practices, as well as common pitfalls related to fraud prevention and detection in the municipal sector. These results may be shared among municipal federations, provincial law-making bodies, as well as CPAs working within the municipal sector. Are you an elected official or staff member, CAO, or Finance Officer at a municipal unit in NS? Research staff would like to arrange for a confidential interview to learn more about your insight.

- More info: [Municipal Fraud Study Link](#)
- Contact: jane.fraser@smu.ca

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.

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

REGISTER FOR FREE
with code
NSFM
COURTESY OF
 NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
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ATLANTIC HEAVY EQUIPMENT SHOW
MONCTON • NEW BRUNSWICK • CANADA
40 YEARS!
MARCH 26-27, 2026
CLUSTER OF MUNICIPALITIES Moncton, NB

CODE VALID UNTIL MARCH 12, 2026

The banner features a yellow background with a black border. On the right side, there are two images: the top one shows an orange excavator at a construction site, and the bottom one shows a log loader in a forest. The text is arranged in a clear, bold, sans-serif font.

NEWS

[Atlantic Canada's offshore wind potential is massive, but less than projected: report](#)
[Halifax Forum's future questioned; mayor calls development price tag unaffordable](#)
[Lunenburg trotting out new bylaw for horses operating seasonal carriages](#)
[N.S. bill calls for provincewide standards for 'fragmented' fire services](#)
[N.S. budget contains major cuts as province confronts \\$1.2B deficit](#)
[Highlights from Nova Scotia's 2026-27 provincial budget](#)
[Singer Anne Murray weighs in on Halifax's potholes](#)
[St. John's Mayor - municipal tax system is 'regressive' wants a piece of the HST pie](#)

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:

- [Canada Cultural Spaces Fund](#): Funding to improve arts and heritage cultural spaces across Canada through renovations, specialized equipment purchases, and planning and feasibility studies.
 - Open to:
 - Municipalities
 - Non-profit organizations
 - Municipal-owned organizations
 - Deadline: Applications are accepted on a continuous basis

PROGRAMS

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) works with [Sport Resource Group](#), an approved supplier, that offers the portable [ProWall-ICE Rink Systems](#). These high-quality, durable, long-lasting boards are for placement in schools and at camps, recreation centres, and neighbourhood parks. These walls bring people together, especially when it comes to playing Canada's game. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**



NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply

Recreation spaces knit communities together. The [NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply Program](#) can help find quality products and competitive prices for every municipal unit. See how the dynamic three-dimensional circuitry created with [PlayBooster](#) components encourages kids to stay in motion with higher elevations, faster slides, meandering routes, and all new spaces to explore. Contact one of our [playground consultants](#) for more information. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Smarter Capital Planning for Public Sector Leaders

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Group](#) provides planning and asset management expertise you need to operate efficiently. Maintaining and improving the physical assets that support our communities requires a fresh, focused approach to capital planning, one that is clear, constituent-centred, and built for sustainable progress. [Gordian](#), an approved program supplier is offering the eBook [Capital Planning in the Public Sector: Constraints, Community and Countermeasures](#) to provide actionable

needs, or funding shortfalls, this resource will help. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

How to Prevent Cold Stress in Outdoor Workers

Extreme cold is one of the most challenging weather conditions in NS, particularly for individuals who work outside. For employers navigating the complexities of outdoor work, it is crucial to grasp and address cold stress. Cold stress, a condition brought on by exposure to the cold, is a major risk for workers who are not adequately protected from extreme cold. [This article](#) explores what constitutes cold stress, its effects, and preventive measures to ensure the wellbeing of outdoor workers

[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

[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

Municipal HST Offset Grants Applications Now Available

The 2026-27 Municipal HST Offset Grant applications have been emailed by NSFM to your municipality. 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.

n 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.

- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca

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 Park'N Fly offers a discount of up to 20% on airport parking and if you use the discount code, parking is 40% cheaper than parking in the airport lot. Congratulations to **Councillor Adele MacDonald**, winner of the coupon for a one-time free use this service, courtesy of Park'N Fly. Thank you to Park'N Fly for the coupon.

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 p.m. (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!

Stormwater Management Strategy - Practitioners Session

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: Public Procurement

NSFM and **Canoe Procurement Group** recently hosted a webinar highlighting the importance of a well-structured procurement policy and regular training on procurement efficiency. Did you miss this event designed for municipal staff involved in seeking enhanced procurement compliance, efficiency, and innovation? You can view the webinar [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



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