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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

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](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Advisory Committees: Supporting Municipal Priorities

NSFM's Advisory Committees play a key role in shaping the organization's advocacy priorities and strengthening the municipal voice across Nova Scotia. These committees provide evidence-informed advice and guidance to the NSFM Board of Directors on issues affecting municipalities. By bringing together municipal leaders from across the province, they foster collaboration, share local perspectives, and

priorities receive thoughtful review and timely input.

NSFM's five Advisory Committees:

- [Climate Change](#)
- [Equity & Community Wellbeing](#)
- [Municipal Infrastructure](#)
- [Municipal Autonomy](#)
- [Public Safety](#)

To learn more about engaging with NSFM's Advisory Committees, [Click Here](#)

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 @ 12:00 noon

NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

NSFM 2026 Spring Conference – Registration Today

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](#)

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

Partner Opportunity: Support Canadian Practitioners in Participatory Facilitation

Coady Institute is hosting two in-person professional development opportunities designed for Canadian practitioners working in community development, peacebuilding, humanitarian aid, and related fields. ***Tools for Conflict Sensitive Development*** and ***Participatory Facilitation for Community Learning and Action*** will be offered on the campus of the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS from June 1 to 5, 2026.

centred tools to strengthen dialogue, inclusion, trust, and collective action in community settings. Limited bursaries are available for African Nova Scotian and Indigenous participants.

Course Details & Application: [Click Here](#)

Applications close: April 10

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

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

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



NEWS

- [Budget for Halifax mayor's office rises as Fillmore calls for spending cuts](#)
- [Controversial drop-in centre in Bridgewater, N.S., to close](#)
- [Lunenburg mayor condemns residents' hostile behaviour toward N.S. Power employees](#)
- [New Legislation Strengthens Fire Protection Across Nova Scotia](#)
- [Port Hawkesbury may tribute former mayor](#)
- [Port Hawkesbury welcomes more housing solutions](#)

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:

- **[Build Canada Homes \(BCH\)](#)**: Federal agency investing in affordable housing at scale through loans, grants, and partnerships with municipalities, non-profits, and Indigenous organizations. BCH is currently seeking shovel-ready projects that materially expand the stock of affordable housing.
 - Open to:
 - Municipalities
 - First Nations
 - Non-profit Organizations
 - Community Groups
 - Registered Charities
 - Deadline: Proposals are accepted on a continuous basis

Announcement on a New Major Federal Infrastructure Fund:

- **Build Communities Strong Fund — Announced in Budget 2025**: The federal government announced the Build Communities Strong Fund, a \$51 billion investment over 10 years to support local infrastructure across Canada, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, transit, hospitals, and colleges and universities.
 - The fund includes three streams:
 - Provincial and Territorial Stream (\$17.2 billion over 10 years)
 - Community Stream (\$27.8 billion over 10 years)
 - Direct Delivery Stream (\$6 billion over 10 years)

PROGRAMS

Staples Professional: Office Supply

As a partner of the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Group](#), Staples Professional is proud to support NSFM members with access to national buying power. Bulk hand hygiene dispensers might seem cost-effective, but they are hiding many dangers and extensive long-term maintenance that simply don't add up. [Read more](#). More info: brenda.mcquinn@staples.ca

Sports Arena Supply

Arenas are the hub of athletic and cultural participation in our communities, but require a wide range of outfitting and maintenance considerations. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Sports Arena Supply Program](#), municipal units get access to supplies and services from the experts specifically for sporting facilities for flooring, ice conditioning, safety, inspections, and more. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Heavy Construction Equipment

Whether moving earth, building roads, constructing bridges, erecting buildings, or maintaining infrastructure, heavy equipment is always on the front lines. The [NSFM/Canoe Heavy Construction Equipment Program](#) offers reliable machines including graders, bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, loaders, dump trucks, and more at preferred pricing and fully trade-compliant. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

OT Error Turns Into a \$185,000 Bill for Employer

An Ontario employer thought it had overtime figured out, until an employee filed a claim. What followed was a detailed decision on overtime thresholds, time-tracking, and reprisal that ended with over \$185,000 in liability for the employer. [This article](#) reminds us that small payroll assumptions can turn into very expensive mistakes and provides practical lessons on overtime classification, record-keeping, and why “handling it internally” can backfire if ESA rights are in play.

offered at **no-charge** to municipal units in NS. More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

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.

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.

- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca

Insurance Tips: Protect Your Home While Away

Going away and leaving your house for extended periods of time can be risky, especially if you do not take proper precautions. To keep your home safe and secure out while you are away, refer to our guide on [How to Protect Your Home While You are Away](#).

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on your **personal home and auto insurance** through BrokerLink's group insurance program? [More information](#).

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. Did you know that travel expenses are among the highest costs for many organizations? Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. **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.**

Free Webinar Series: Shared Resilience — Stories of Extreme Weather Adaptation

CLIMBAtlantic is hosting a three-part webinar series featuring real-world examples of communities and organizations building resilience to extreme weather. Each session covers a different angle:

- **March 18** @ 12:00 PM — Integrating Accessibility: Extreme Weather and Vulnerable Populations
- **April 8** @ 12:00 PM — From Maps to Action: Flood Hazard Preparedness in Lennox Island First Nation
- **May 13** @ 12:00 PM — Resilient Forests: History, Humans and Healthy Ecosystems
- **Free Registration:** [Click 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**



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