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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



**NSFM 2026
SPRING
CONFERENCE**

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

April 30 | 9–10 AM | Rodd Grand Convention Centre | Plenary Session

Get inspired by innovative, practical solutions emerging from municipalities across Nova Scotia. *Municipal Success Stories That Make a Difference* highlights three impactful initiatives that are strengthening communities, reducing barriers, and proving what's possible when local leaders think creatively.

Pictou County's Journey to Net-Zero: Discover how 21 rural community halls are being transformed into modern, zero-energy spaces through deep energy retrofits, solar installations, local contractor partnerships, and community-led planning.

Town of Yarmouth – More than Flowers: Learn how Yarmouth turned Communities in Bloom into a long-term, award-winning strategy for civic pride, beautification, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

Wolfville's Low-Barrier Rec Hub: See how a simple, right-sized idea is expanding access to active transportation with free bike loans, e-bikes, accessibility supports, and staff-guided navigation tools.

And this is only the beginning - the Spring Conference features a strong lineup of municipal updates, concurrent sessions, emergency management briefings, policing updates, plus Friday's climate, AI, and global leadership discussions. It's a valuable opportunity for learning, sharing, and connecting with colleagues.

Don't miss out on the early bird registration rate.

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

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Meetings that Matter: Governance, Strategy, & Public Trust

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

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

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 help identify emerging challenges and opportunities. Advisory Committees meet at least four times each year—and more frequently when required—to ensure municipal 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](#)

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



2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS
Municipal World

2026 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE
Municipal World

2026 MAYOR OF THE YEAR
Municipal World

2026 CAO OF THE YEAR
Municipal World

Nominations for the **Women of Influence** and **CAO of the Year** awards are due by 11 p.m. EDT on **Friday, Aug. 14**. The **Mayor of the Year** is selected by the editors of **Municipal World**.

 **Municipal World** Inc.

Celebrate Excellence in Local Government

Municipal World is proud to bring back the Local Government Awards, recognizing outstanding leadership and influence in municipalities across Canada. This award series highlights key areas where direction and innovation help shape communities, including the prestigious Women of Influence in Local Government and CAO of the

Submit your nominations today and help us celebrate excellence in local government. Nominations must be received no later than 11 p.m. EDT, on Friday, Aug. 14.

[Learn More](#)

Are Your Toboggan Hills Holding Up?

With winter in full swing, this is a great time to check in on the condition and safety of your toboggan hills. Check out these resources with practical information to set you up for success:

- [Risk Management Considerations for Toboggan Hills](#)
- [The Uphill Battle of Municipal Toboggan Hills](#)
- [Pre-Season Toboggan Hill Inspection Checklist](#)
- [In-Season Toboggan Hill Inspection Checklist](#)

This information is presented courtesy of the **NSFM Commercial Insurance Program**. Program information: imorrison@nsfm.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

Pictou County Summit 2026

businesses, and community members to strengthen collaboration and accelerate collective climate action across the region. Hosted by the Pictou County Partnership in collaboration with the Municipality of Pictou County, Pictou Landing First Nation, and the towns of New Glasgow, Pictou, Stellarton, Trenton, and Westville, the 2026 Climate Summit builds on the momentum of the 2023 event led by Atlantic Infrastructure Management (AIM) Network.

- Sign up to learn more and receive updates [here](#)
- More info: emily.hodgson@townofpictou.ca

NEWS

[‘A terrible idea’: Halifax to raise parking fees, bring paid Saturday parking](#)

[Amherst pumps brakes on transit plans during budget deliberations](#)

[CBRM in talks to create new authority to manage Sydney harbour](#)

[Connecting Donald Trump’s stupid war and Tim Houston’s stupid budget](#)

[Downtown Bridgewater drop-in centre closing after community complaints](#)

[Halifax councillor says ferry issues are unacceptable](#)

[Lunenburg mayor says cutting Bluenose II funding is the wrong move](#)

[Mayor: ‘lower-mid single-digits’ tax bill increase as budget debate continues](#)

[More affordable housing may be coming to Antigonish](#)

[More than \\$17M in municipal infrastructure grants cut for N.S. budget](#)

[Over \\$1.3 million to fund infrastructure upgrades in Antigonish County](#)

[Province says it will not extend freeze on Halifax development charges](#)

[Water main replacement for Richmond County](#)

[Yarmouth Mayor ‘not devastated’ by VIC closure](#)

FUNDING

Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

communicated, outlining deadlines and information sessions. The Municipal Funding Database is now a full **Funding Portal**. Visit the new portal: nsfunding.ca.

PROGRAMS

Municipal Wellness

The [Municipal Wellness Program](#) was established in 2014 and encourages Nova Scotia municipalities to create healthy workplace environments and promote positive health and wellbeing for all municipal employees and elected officials. Refer to the March 2026 [Municipal Wellness Connection Newsletter](#) for the latest updates, initiatives, and opportunities through the program.

Program contacts:

- spellerin@amans.ca
- rtoole@amans.ca

CCBF Update

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](#).

- Visit the [CCBF webpage](#)
- More info? Contact ccbf@nsfm.ca

Culvert

Building and maintaining safe, accessible road infrastructure requires access to sound products. The [NSFM/Canoe Culvert Program](#) provides access to a range of drainage, bridge, and road construction products, enabling you to focus on building infrastructure networks that connect residents and economic activity. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

vehicle budgeting guidance, and roadside assistance. Offered in collaboration with leading companies in the industry, the [NSFM/Canoe Fleet Management Program](#) provides solutions for every aspect of your fleet. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Wildfire Season Preparedness

[Grainger Canada](#) is a procurement partner in the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting PPE Program](#). As we move closer to the high-risk season of wildfires, refer to the [Grainger website](#) for information and support. Grainger Canada offers servicing of Breathing Apparatus systems, based out of Halifax. More information, contact: leonie.gillingham@grainger.ca. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NS Court Upholds Termination

An NS court has upheld the termination of a long-term employee who repeatedly used racist and homophobic language in the workplace. The [ruling](#) confirms that progressive discipline is not required when conduct constitutes wilful misconduct that fundamentally breaches workplace policies.

- Zero-tolerance policies can support termination in cases of serious misconduct
- Wilful misconduct does not require intent to harm
- Progressive discipline is not always needed
- Document and enforce policies consistently
- Enforce your workplace culture

This case serves as a reminder that employers have both the right and responsibility to act decisively against discrimination and harassment, safeguarding employees and the organization.

[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 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

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 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.**

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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