

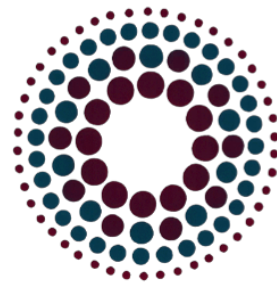
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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

## NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE



# NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

### Join Us for a Must-Attend Event for Municipal Leaders

NSFM's Spring Conference is your opportunity to gain practical tools, stay informed on key legislation, and connect with municipal leaders from across Nova Scotia.

Why attend an NSFM Event?

**Access Timely, Municipal-Focused Content** – Sessions are designed to address real challenges and opportunities facing municipalities today.

**Stay Ahead of Emerging Trends** – Learn about policies, best practices, and innovations shaping municipal governance.

**Enhance Leadership & Decision-Making** – Strengthen your ability to navigate challenges and lead effectively.

**Network with Peers & Experts** – Engage with fellow elected officials, policy makers, and industry professionals.

Don't miss this cost-effective opportunity for professional development and collaboration.

[Click here for more details & Registration!](#) - Don't miss out on the Early Bird Registration Rate.

*NSFM extends thanks to your Spring Conference Sponsors:*



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## 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

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change. The NSFM [Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) supports municipal leadership on sustainability and climate action. Its work focuses on issues such as energy, biodiversity, climate adaptation, and long-term environmental planning—helping communities across Nova Scotia prepare for and respond to a changing climate. To learn more about engaging with any of the 5 NSFM's Advisory Committees, [Click Here](#)

## NEWS

[Halifax Water warns customers of privacy breach](#)

[Halifax considers asking province to create centralized dangerous dog registry](#)

[Healthcare, vibrant downtown part of feedback on Yarmouth town planning review](#)

[Lunenburg's Mayor mystified by budget cuts to Bluenose II](#)

[PARL may need community fundraising to balance budget](#)

[Province approves water pipeline project for Port Hawkesbury and Richmond area](#)

[Stewiacke residents consider amalgamation, voice concern about property taxes](#)

[Town of Digby launches grant program for affordable housing](#)

## FUNDING

### Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFM 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).

- [Tree Planting](#) program is now open: Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant supporting large-scale tree-planting projects that expand and protect community tree canopies. Projects must deliver measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits.
  - o Up to \$10 million in project funding
  - o Up to \$1 million in infrastructure activity funding

# 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 March. Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## Traffic Supply

The [NSFM/Canoe Traffic Supply Program](#) enables municipalities to partner with major sign suppliers to ensure members get the signage they need at a competitive trade compliant price. Explore the online store for [ATS Traffic](#), an approved supplier for 15,000+ traffic safety products with built-in Canoe pricing, instant quotes, and streamlined ordering. Enjoy flexible payment and shipping options, plus chat and order support for a seamless experience. Get fast, accurate pricing and support for every order.

## Checklists for High-Risk Spills

Bodily fluid spills are high-risk situations that demand the right knowledge, tools, and protocols. The [Blood & Bodily Fluid Cleaning Checklist](#) from [Bunzl](#), an approved supplier in the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) helps municipalities protect staff, reduce infection risks, and ensure compliant cleanup of blood and bodily fluids across healthcare, education, and facility environments. From required PPE to clear steps for small and large spills, it is an essential resource for keeping people safe and operations running smoothly.

## AI in the Canadian Workplace: A Risk Management Guide

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming part of everyday operations for Canadian organizations. From drafting emails and job descriptions to screening resumes, summarizing meetings, and analyzing data, AI tools promise speed and efficiency, often at little or no cost. But here is the part many employers overlook: AI creates legal, privacy, HR, and governance risks that still fall squarely on the

simple, practical safeguards.

[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)

## Are Fleet & Road Safety Practices Where They Need To Be?

Strong fleet and road safety practices are essential to protecting your community and reducing risk. To help municipalities champion these priorities, numerous upcoming [webinars and education events](#) are planned which focus on building safer systems, improving oversight, and supporting teams with practical, actionable guidance.

This information is presented courtesy of the **NSFM Commercial Insurance Program**. Program information: [imorrison@nsfm.ca](mailto:imorrison@nsfm.ca)

## 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**.

## CCBF Program 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

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

## Pictou County Summit 2026

The Pictou County Climate Summit will take place May 29-30 at the Pictou County Wellness Centre, bringing together municipal leaders and staff, organizations, 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](mailto:emily.hodgson@townofpictou.ca)

## 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](mailto:spellerin@amans.ca)
- [rtoole@amans.ca](mailto:rtoole@amans.ca)

## WEBINARS

### Recap 2025 Nova Scotia Mental Wellness Survey – Key Insights

Missed our NSFM Lunch & Learn on the 2025 Nova Scotia Mental Wellness Survey? **Here's what you need to know:**

municipalities, and how this data can support local planning. They also discussed upcoming projects and opportunities to get involved.

Guest Speakers were **Rebecca Todd**, Research Project Community Coordinator, CBU School of Nursing and **Jenna MacQueen**, Research Manager, Nova Scotia Health – Research Innovation and Discovery

[Click Here](#) to watch the session recording to see how data and shared knowledge are helping communities across Nova Scotia strengthen mental wellness.

## 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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