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# Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES



Wishing all NSFM members a joyful Easter weekend. May this season of renewal bring moments of rest, connection, and optimism as you continue the important work of serving your communities. Thank you for your ongoing leadership and dedication to municipalities across Nova Scotia.

**NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE**



# NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 29th–May 1st, Yarmouth, NS

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE NSFM SPRING CONFERENCE YET?

The 2026 NSFM Spring Conference will take place from April 29 – May 1 at the Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth.



## NSFM 2026 Spring Conference Highlights

- Inspiring Municipal Success Stories from communities across Nova Scotia
- Key provincial updates on policing, critical minerals, emergency management, and municipal affairs
- Forward-looking sessions on climate resilience, stormwater strategy, dark skies & astro-tourism, and AI in local government
- Strong networking and peer-to-peer learning with municipal leaders from across the province

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the conference website. The full program and registration details can be found on the site.

**Don't miss out on the early bird registration fee!** Fees increase on April 6.

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

Healthy communities are built through inclusion, collaboration, and shared opportunity. The [NSFM Equity & Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee](#) works to elevate diverse perspectives and encourage collaboration across municipalities. The committee's work helps inform advocacy that supports inclusive policies and strengthens community wellbeing throughout Nova Scotia.

To learn more about engaging with any of the 5 NSFM's Advisory Committees, [Click Here](#)

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### Forestry in the Municipal Context

The *Atlantic Forestry Review* is published region-wide six times per year. In the [March 2026 edition](#), you can read the following articles, which may be of interest to member units:

- What can the urban forest do in a time of climate change?
- Town of Wolfville's Urban Forestry Policy and plans for tree cover
- The role of municipalities in managing Emerald ash borer
- New trees on downtown sites need all the help they can get

## NEWS

[Amherst mayor responds to proposed tolls at N.S., N.B. border](#)

[CBRM buys up land to prevent development, protect water supply](#)

[Halifax councillors concerned with loss of oversight when harbour bridges board dissolved](#)

[Halifax approves plans to turn Mic Mac Mall parking lots into thousands of housing units](#)

[Lockeport, Shelburne municipalities say provincial funds needed to explore amalgamation](#)

[Lunenburg council to review proposed water rate increases](#)

[New Brunswick plans to charge tolls on highway](#)

[Space launch pad coming to Nova Scotia](#)

## FUNDING

### Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The Funding Portal is a joint initiative of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Our mission is simple: make finding and applying for grants easy and efficient — so you can focus on building stronger communities [nsfunding.ca](https://nsfunding.ca).

### A New Funding Opportunity Added to the Portal:

[Tourism Digital Assistance Program – Communities](#): Provincial program matching NS municipalities and tourism organizations with digital consultants for up to \$15,000 in services to promote communities online.

- Open to:
  - Municipalities
  - Non-profit Organizations
  - Community Groups
- Application deadline: May 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM ADT

### Funding Now Available: GMF's Accelerating Circularity in Construction Materials

The Green Municipal Fund is now accepting applications for *Accelerating Circularity in Construction Materials*, a funding and a 2-year peer learning cohort opportunity to help Canadian municipalities reduce construction, renovation and demolition waste and advance circular solutions.

Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 in grant funding, covering 50% to 80% of eligible costs, and up to 100% for Northern and eligible Indigenous first-time applicants. Applications are open until June 26, 2026. [Apply now!](#)

## PROGRAMS

**Open Air, Prefab Washroom Structures**

conventional and modern toilets, faucets, dispensers, and more are available, all tendered on your behalf and fully trade compliant. Whether hosting large outdoor events, facilitating offsite construction projects, or temporarily increasing facility capacity, the program ensures sanitary needs are cared for. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### **NSFM/Canoe Office Supply**

The [NSFM/Canoe Office Supply Program](#) is a one-stop shop for all office supplies. The program offers members everything from pens to cleaning equipment, furniture to computers, promotional materials to coffee supplies, all with preferential pricing. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### **Trench Safety**

The [NSFM/Canoe Road & Trench Safety Program](#) offers trench safety systems that can help you avoid costly downtime and ensure compliance with local safety regulations. With the largest fleet of shoring and excavation rental equipment in North America, along with training and certification programs, the program provides customized solutions to meet all your trench safety needs and works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### **Planning for Benefits Costs (and Avoiding Surprises)**

Employee benefits are one of the most meaningful investments an organization makes but they are also one of the most complex to forecast. In a world of changing inflation, higher claims costs, and evolving employee needs, taking a proactive approach to budgeting helps ensure your plan remains sustainable. How do you budget for benefits costs? This [article](#) explores some of the drivers of benefits and costs and how organizations can budget for these costs in the year ahead.

[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)

### **Municipal HST Offset Grants Applications Now Available**

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](mailto:imorrison@nsfm.ca)

## NSFM Municipal Insurance

NSFM offers a comprehensive and flexible commercial, D&O, and liability insurance program so that municipal units are able to effectively meet the needs of their citizens. The advantages of the program are best explained by the municipal units participating in the NSFM program:

- Benefit of being part of a larger group
- Communication with fellow municipalities
- Economies of scale
- Insurance provided through a municipal lens
- Not having to tender and plan the program oneself
- Program tailored to small, medium, and large municipalities

In addition, the NSFM program offers value-added education around relevant insurance topics. Have you evaluated your commercial insurance needs recently? Questions about the NSFM program? Contact [imorrison@nsfm.ca](mailto:imorrison@nsfm.ca)

## Equipment Breakdown for Municipalities

Municipalities of all sizes rely on critical equipment to deliver essential services. With aging infrastructure, tight budgets, and public safety on the line, having the right coverage is critical. Have you considered [equipment breakdown insurance coverage](#), designed specifically for the public sector and helping municipal units to:

- respond quickly to unexpected equipment failures
- cover costs related to repair, replacement, and recovery
- access expert support to minimize operational disruption
- protect against service interruption and financial strain

**Program.** Program information: [imorrison@nsfm.ca](mailto:imorrison@nsfm.ca)

## 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 Teal Verus as 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 [tverus@nsfm.ca](mailto:tverus@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)

## RESOURCES

### [Winter Municipal Observer](#)

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

The magazine for the Atlantic Region of Municipalities



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