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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



STRONGER TOGETHER:
LEADERSHIP, TRUST &
TRANSFORMATION
2026 NSFM CONFERENCE

NOV 3rd – 6th

Westin Hotel, Halifax NS

Municipal leaders from across Nova Scotia are facing an increasingly complex landscape. Economic uncertainty, workforce pressures, changing public expectations, governance challenges, climate resilience, and community wellbeing all demand thoughtful leadership and strong partnerships.

Join elected and administrative leaders from across the province this November for four days of learning, networking, and practical discussions focused on the realities of municipal leadership today and the opportunities ahead.

Register today and be part of Nova Scotia's premier municipal leadership event.



FEATURED KEYNOTE

Celina Caesar-Chavannes

Former Member of Parliament, bestselling author and internationally recognized leadership speaker.

Governance. Leadership. Practical Solutions.

EDUCATION - NEW SERIES

Natural Resources & Energy Education Series

NSFM is pleased to introduce this new series of online sessions is designed to create opportunities for municipalities to connect with provincial departments and other partners working in Nova Scotia's energy and natural resources sectors. **Upcoming sessions:**

- **Mining in Nova Scotia:** [September 28](#), 12:00-1:30 PM
- **Introduction to the IESO Nova Scotia:** [October 1](#), 12:00-1:00 PM
- **Critical and Strategic Minerals Atlas Tutorial:** [October 19](#) or [October 28](#), 12:00-12:45 PM

Additional sessions will be announced as details are confirmed.

Learn more and register: [Natural Resources & Energy Education Series](#)

MUNICIPAL CONSULTATIONS

Mandatory Orientation Training for Newly Elected Councillors

These consultations will help identify current municipal orientation practices, opportunities, and barriers, and inform an orientation framework that is accessible, equitable, and realistic for municipalities and newly elected councillors.

Seven consultation sessions will be held across the province throughout October, including in-person sessions in Bridgewater, Truro, Wolfville, Port Hawkesbury, and Yarmouth, as well as two virtual sessions.

Members are encouraged to register for the session that best fits their schedule and region. [View the consultation details and register](#)

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Nominations Open for the 2026 Board of Directors Election

The 2026 Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Regional Representatives for each NSFM Electoral Region (except CBRM)

The nomination deadline is October 2.

Visit the NSFM website for full election details, including nomination information and Board member resources. [Click Here](#)

Learn More About the NSFM Board

Interested in learning more about the role of the NSFM Board of Directors? Current Board member Belle Hatfield shares her experience and highlights the important work of the Board in helping shape the future of Nova Scotia's municipalities. [Watch her video to learn more.](#)

Several current Board members will also share why they chose to run for the NSFM Board. Pam Mood, NSFM Past President and Mayor, Town of Yarmouth, shares:

NSFM. It's important we don't leave our futures up to the "someone else will do it" mantra we've all seen. Stepping into service with NSFM is one of the richest experiences I've had, and I'd encourage everyone to give it a go. It's growth and service on another level!"

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Climate Change Adaptation Guidebook for Forest-Based Communities

Natural Resources Canada has released its **Climate Change Adaptation Guidebook for Forest-Based Communities** in both English and French. The plain-language guide helps small forest-based communities assess climate change vulnerabilities, understand potential impacts, and develop practical adaptation plans.

The guide includes Canadian examples, resources, and tools to support communities in conducting their own assessments.

English: [Click Here](#)

French: [Click Here](#)

Indigenous Language Learning Courses

The [Outdoor Learning School & Store](#) is offering courses that municipal leaders and staff will find valuable and interesting, especially as many organizations move along a path towards truth and reconciliation.

- [Mi'kmaq Resources & Learning Opportunities](#)
- September 2026: [Mi'kmaw Introductory Language Course](#)
- Fall 2026: [4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning Course](#)
- Winter 2027: [Mi'kmaw Conversational Course](#)

More information: info@outdoorlearning.com

How Can Municipalities Mitigate Flood Damage?

Slobodan Simonović, professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering at Western University, joins CBC Radio to discuss flood infrastructure strategy and how

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Municipal Fraud Research

What role do municipal councillors play in preventing and addressing fraud? This session will share findings from *Exploring Fraud Responsibility: A Municipal Perspective*, highlighting insights from municipal leaders and staff across Canada. Participants will explore fraud awareness, council oversight, audit committees, and communication with staff and auditors, along with practical takeaways, common pitfalls, and questions councillors can ask to strengthen governance.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, October 15

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click Here](#)

Using the Sustainable Development Goals to Advance Local Priorities

Presented by Local Futures

Join NSFM for a Lunch & Learn with Jon Beale, Director of Local Futures, on how municipalities can use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support local planning, decision-making, and community priorities. This session will explore practical ways to “localize” the SDGs and integrate them into governance, planning, budgeting, and program implementation.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click here](#)

NEWS

[Halifax fellowship prepares young African Nova Scotians for municipal politics](#)
[Heated Rivalry author donates \\$300K to 5 rural libraries facing closure](#)
[Hundreds attend community meeting on drugs, crime in New Waterford, N.S.](#)
[NS woman abandons home after years of repeated flooding and sewage overflows](#)
[N.S. town asks for homeless shelter to close](#)
[New Halifax fire chief says job is 'opportunity of a lifetime'](#)
[Queens council reviewing major rewrite of dog bylaw](#)
[Shelburne, Lockeport amalgamation meeting postponed](#)
[Truro cycling advocates call for progress on infrastructure](#)

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](#).

[Energy Innovation Program – Innovation Ecosystem Enablers](#): Natural Resources Canada funding supports the development and expansion of shared energy technology testing facilities that help Canadian innovators validate and commercialize clean energy solutions.

Deadline: ongoing intake

PROGRAMS

Using Data to Make Smarter Fire and EMS Decisions

Discover how the [NSFM/Canoe Public Administration Software Program](#) provides the municipal sector with the software solutions needed to run operations effectively and efficiently. As agencies face growing service demands, budget pressures, and evolving community needs, operational data can provide valuable insights for staffing, deployment, station planning, and strategic decision-making around fire and

for fire and EMS. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Free 90-day Trial: Crosswalk Warning Systems

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. Discover how [ATS Traffic](#) is helping communities keep intersections powered, connected, and safe during outages. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. ATS Traffic is pleased to offer a [free 90-day trial](#) of the Carmanah R920MX Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB), a solar-powered, pedestrian-actuated crosswalk warning system. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Procurement Confessions

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) recently hosted an educational session where Stéphanie Dion and Tony De Sciscio shared [practical procurement insights](#) drawing on their decades of hands-on industry experience. The most valuable takeaways from the session have been captured in a [comprehensive article](#) built for procurement professionals at every stage. Use it as a practical reference for day-to-day procurement work. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

HR Spotlight

When Unwritten Workplace Practices Protect Employees

An Ontario court found [wrongful dismissal](#) where a long-term night shift supervisor was fired for "topping up" employee timesheets, a practice that had been universally followed for nearly two decades, known to management, and never prohibited. The Court awarded 19 months' pay in lieu of notice plus 14 months of Wallace damages for bad-faith conduct in the manner of dismissal. If a policy has been routinely ignored or applied inconsistently, a municipal unit may face significant liability when suddenly enforcing it against a long-serving employee without warning. Document policies, communicate changes clearly, and apply rules consistently across all employees.

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

Does Carpooling Affect My Insurance?

Does carpooling affect your car insurance? The good news is that most of the time, it will not impact your auto insurance policy. But there are some situations where it absolutely can. [Learn more](#) about different carpooling scenarios, so you know what is covered, what is not, and when to call your broker.

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.

BrokerLink
Insurance insights
Your trusted group partner

The logo for BrokerLink Insurance, featuring a stylized 'B' made of two overlapping squares (yellow and blue) above the text 'BrokerLink' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Insurance' in a smaller, blue font below it.

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. Under this program, you can receive an exclusive discount on the services of Park'N Fly for business or leisure travel at their Halifax Stanfield International Airport location and at six other locations across Canada. 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.**

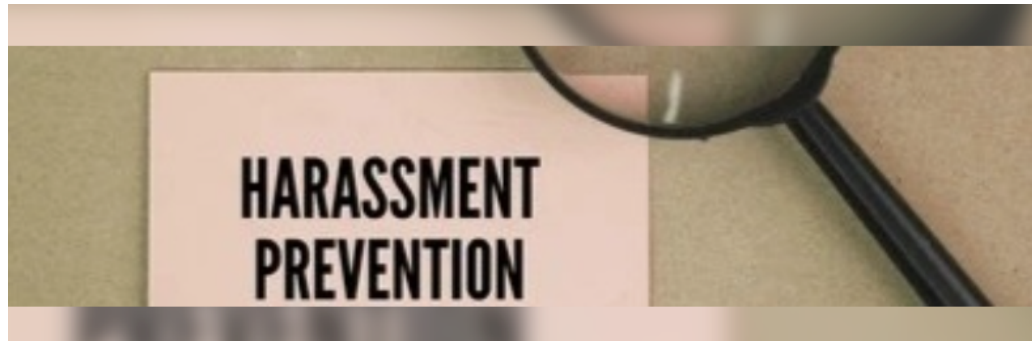
WEBINARS

Climate change impacts are increasingly affecting Nova Scotia communities through wildfires, hurricanes, drought and flooding. Climate risk assessments can help municipalities identify risks, opportunities, and priorities to build more resilient communities.

Join NSFM for a webinar exploring the Province's updated 2025 Climate Change Risk Assessment, along with a local example from the Town of Truro. The session will highlight different approaches to climate risk assessment and how municipalities can tailor these tools to their unique needs.

Session Details: Wednesday, September 23 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Register: [Click Here](#)



Recap: Harassment Prevention and Safer Workplaces Together: Regulatory Updates and the Path Ahead

If you missed NSFM's webinar, presented by Blaise MacNeil, Safety Advisor of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, this session provides a timely update on workplace harassment regulations following their September 1, 2025 implementation. Viewers will hear about emerging trends, key insights, and what is being seen across Nova Scotia workplaces.

The discussion also highlights the importance of working together to strengthen understanding, improve prevention, and better support safer workplaces across the province.

- **Session Recording:** [Click Here](#)
- **Presentation Slide Deck:** [Click Here](#)



Recap: Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

NSFM and [Canoe Procurement Group](#) recently hosted a half hour webinar outlining how the program works and how to access and maximize participation in the program. This short webinar is a great opportunity to gain insight and better understand how this procurement option can support your municipal unit and augment your other procurement activities. The recording will be of interest to anyone in your organization affiliated with the procurement process. Missed the webinar? Access the recording [here](#).

RESOURCES

[Summer Municipal Observer](#)

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

[Spring/Summer Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for the **Atlantic Region of Municipalities**



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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Suite #1500, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

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