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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE



STRONGER TOGETHER: LEADERSHIP, TRUST & TRANSFORMATION

2026 NSFM CONFERENCE
Nov 3 - 6 • Halifax, NS

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE
PROGRAM & REGISTER

The full program and registration details are
found on the conference site.

Did You Know?

Before the conference officially begins, you can take part in a special pre-conference Session *The Next Stages of Safety: Practical Steps to Engage your Municipality on Emerging Threats to Social Cohesion*

Tuesday, November 3 – 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

(This session is limited to the first 80 participants to register)

Registration is being handled by the Strong Cities Network through the following link: [The Next Stages of Safety: NSFM Annual Conference Workshop Registration Form – Fill out form](#)

Presented by the [Strong Cities Network](#) in partnership with the [Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities](#) and [Halifax Regional Municipality](#), **The Next Stages of Safety: Practical Steps to Engage Your Municipality on Emerging Threats to Social Cohesion** will provide a roadmap for local leaders who are reimagining what safety and belonging look like in their communities and ensure municipal strategies, priorities, and initiatives are aligned with the most pressing needs of local communities. As threats to social cohesion become increasingly complex - with anxieties and unrest around rising costs of living, vulnerabilities to radicalization in youth, threats targeting elected officials (particularly women and racialized minorities), rapid demographic changes, newcomer integration, and more – the

The rest of the workshop will build upon the threat landscape with actionable case studies, tools, and resources available to leaders to harness the full power of existing assets, resources, and relationships. We will highlight ongoing success in Halifax and other municipalities across Canada to implement collaborative whole-of-government, whole-of-society approaches as a guide to navigating deepening social isolation and divisions, identifying the role everyone can play in ensuring communities grow and thrive at the local level.



Presenters: Strong Cities Network, with speakers from the [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#), Halifax Regional Municipality, and Charlie Clark, former Mayor of Saskatoon. [READ MORE DETAILS HERE](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

New Fact Sheets: Environment and Climate Change & Extended Producer Responsibility

NSFM has released two new fact sheets highlighting municipal priorities, key developments and ongoing advocacy in environment and climate change, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The [Environment and Climate Change](#) fact sheet outlines municipal climate action, adaptation and resilience initiatives, and NSFM's work to support progress toward environmental goals.

The [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) fact sheet explores the transition of certain recycling responsibilities from municipalities to producers, effective December 2025, and the history of NSFM's advocacy to advance EPR in Nova Scotia.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

NSFM's 2026 Board of Directors Election Campaign

The campaign for NSFM's 2026 Board of Directors Election has officially begun. We invite you to acquaint yourself with the nominees, where you will discover their backgrounds, aspirations, and dedication to serving our communities. [Click here for more info.](#)

EDUCATION - NEW SERIES

Natural Resources & Energy Education Series

NSFM is pleased to introduce this new series of online sessions 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:**

- **Critical & 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

Consultation: Mandatory Training for New Councillors

NSFM is consulting with members on the development of new requirements for orientation training for newly elected councillors. In person and online consultation sessions will be held across the province this month. The purposes:

- Help identify current municipal orientation practices, opportunities, and barriers

[View the consultation details and register](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has launched a new online resource

DECC's [new online resource](#) has been created to share information and support community climate risk assessments. Based on *Powering the Transition: 2025 Update to the Nova Scotia Climate Change Risk Assessment*, the tool summarizes key findings and provides regional insights to help communities understand climate risks, build local capacity and strengthen resilience.

Municipal Awareness Week

November 1–7 has been proclaimed Municipal Awareness Week in Nova Scotia. NSFM is encouraging municipalities and residents to celebrate by recognizing local leaders and staff, sharing community success stories and memories, and highlighting initiatives that are making a difference in communities across the province. Follow NSFM's social channels throughout Municipal Awareness Week to learn, celebrate and share what's happening in your community.

Municipal Exchange

Municipal Exchange is a listserv designed as a shared space for municipal news, resources, and discussion to connect and support Nova Scotia's broader municipal sector. Participation is free and open to municipal leaders and staff across the province. You can sign up for the listserv [here](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

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*

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](#)

NEWS

[Audio: Assessment Cap & Interview with NSFM VP Eldon MacDonald](#)[Bolder Ambitions: Building a More Prosperous Atlantic Canada](#)[CBRM weighs new report on taking over volunteer fire departments](#)[Councillors say the time is now to determine Halifax Forum's future](#)[Excitement, concern as HRM mulls permanent no-car zone on Argyle Street](#)[Halifax residents react to police investigation into mayor's expenses](#)[In Pictures: Mahone Bay Scarecrow Festival](#)[Port Hawkesbury residents mixed on proposed data centre](#)[Yarmouth surveying residents about expanding road trails in town](#)

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.

[Stormwater Transformation Optimization and Resilience for Municipalities \(STORM\):](#)

Provincial funds support Nova Scotia municipalities with stormwater planning, analysis and program development to improve flood and climate resilience.

[Supportive Housing Expression of Interest](#): NS Department of Opportunities and Social Development supports the creation or expansion of permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness in Nova Scotia.

Deadline: Ongoing intake

Information Session:

[Supportive Housing Expression of Interest](#): October 13, 2026, 10 AM–12 PM Please contact hsh@novascotia.ca for additional information and to register for the information session.

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Updated Supplier List: October 2026

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our the municipal sector. This month six new contracts have been added, and two existing contracts renewed, all of which were awarded through an open RFP process to ensure competitive, trade-compliant agreements are in place for the municipal sector. View the [October Supplier Update](#). New suppliers include the following:

- Agilyx ([Enterprise Resource Planning \(ERP\)](#))
- Ameresco Canada Inc. ([Energy Management & Sustainability Solutions Program](#))
- Buyers Products ([Winter Maintenance Equipment Program](#))
- CARE Appliances ([Residential Appliances Program](#))
- HD Supply ([Residential Appliances Program](#))
- MSC Industrial Supply ([MRO Supply Program](#))

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

Cargo Truck Beds

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement](#)-approved supplier [Expertec](#) provides commercial vehicle upfitting, customizing work trucks and cargo vans for contractors, tradespeople, and municipal fleets. [Discover how reducing climbing, reaching and cargo reshuffling can improve daily productivity](#) and the key factors to evaluate when choosing a slide for

HR Spotlight: Employer Ends Employment During Accommodation and Pays

This [HR Covered case study](#) outlines a case where an employer did not adequately explore reassignment, transfer, demotion, or other reasonable options before terminating an employee with medically supported restrictions during a restructuring. The decision shows why a legitimate operational change does not end the duty to accommodate. Your takeaway: before ending employment during a restructuring, document the employee's restrictions and the alternatives considered. The accommodation analysis should be completed before the termination decision is finalized.

[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

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 NSFM & BrokerLink's group insurance program? Learn about the [program](#) benefits and how BrokerLink can provide you with a **free, no-obligations insurance quote**.

WEBINARS

Climate Risk Assessments: Provincial & Municipal Approaches

How can climate risk assessments help municipalities prepare for the impacts of climate change?

In this NSFM webinar recording, presenters explore the Province of Nova Scotia's updated 2025 Climate Change Risk Assessment and share a municipal perspective from the Town of Truro. The discussion highlights different approaches to assessing climate-related risks, identifying priorities and strengthening community resilience.

[Watch session recording here.](#)

Recap: Using Sustainable Development Goals to Advance Local Priorities

If you missed NSFM's September Lunch & Learn, the recording is now available on demand. Jon Beale and Laura Carr-Pries of Local Futures explored how municipalities can use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to strengthen local planning, decision-making, budgeting, governance, program delivery, and community priorities. The session offers practical guidance on localizing the SDGs and identifying opportunities for greater collaboration, alignment, and impact. [Watch the session recording.](#)

RESOURCES

[Summer 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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