

FALL/WINTER 2022

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



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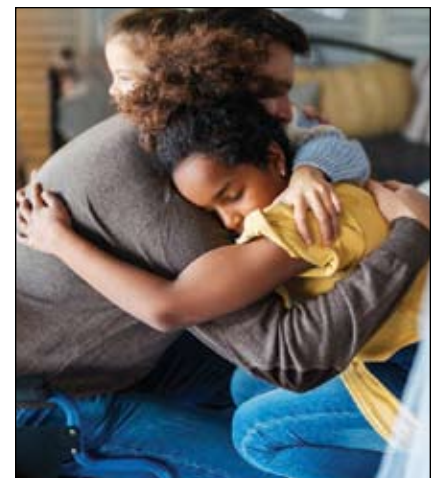
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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

**Better government.
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The NSFM is a not-for-profit organization mandated to represent the interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia. Total membership is 376 elected officials representing all 49 municipalities.

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Breaking Barriers

By Outgoing President Amanda McDougall

When this issue is published, it will be my final opportunity to provide remarks as President of the NSFM. How convenient that this is the service issue because it's an opportunity to reflect on the service excellence I've seen throughout communities in our province, within our membership, and at an organizational level. The words ordinary and service don't seem to go together very well. Perhaps that's because so much of what happens when we're striving to improve, to assist others, to even playing fields – is extra ordinary.

As municipally elected officials, we serve through difficult times, with tough-minded people, and amidst conflicting issues. For us, service is the ability to represent our communities and create a difference for the people calling our regions home. It's reacting with level heads and irrepressible optimism to the idea that a better path can be found – or built. In the aftermath of Fiona, like many other elected officials, I saw what can happen when the best of government – the best of community – pulls together.

Service doesn't often happen in the spotlight. The NSFM Board of Directors meets six times a year for approximately three hours to cover a hefty amount of content put forward by the membership and staff. We hear updates from Deputy Ministers, review federal advocacy priorities from the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities (FCM), and interact with the province on proposed legislation. We review letters received from the membership and respond to your questions and concerns, we discuss ways to leverage all four Atlantic municipal associations, and we review requests from many community organizations to endorse or promote their initiatives.

As municipally elected officials, we serve through difficult times, with tough-minded people, and amidst conflicting issues.

Does any of this sound familiar? It may be difficult to feel a sense of service while your debating policy changes, revising budgets, or approving a new program – but that's what service out of the spotlight looks like. It doesn't mean our processes aren't transparent or that our decisions won't come

under scrutiny. We have to be prepared to clearly articulate the 'why' behind the 'what.' It does mean that progress likely won't come all-at-once. It may need to happen incrementally. Relentless incrementalism is a concept many of us are familiar with.

My time as President helped me to reflect on what it means to serve: the need can come when you least expect it, you can rise to bigger challenges than you anticipated, and what's accomplished will live on past your time in office.

I wish all of you success in your continued service and encourage you to connect with NSFM along the way.



Changing NSFAM

By CEO Juanita Spencer

Welcome to the fall/winter issue of Municipal Observer Magazine. While this time of year is when we typically ramp up after a period of rest and relaxation, the summer months proved to be an unusually busy period for NSFAM.

Our team worked hard advancing three major projects – NSFAM restructuring, Service Exchange and MGA/Halifax Charter review and the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund - in addition to our on-going advocacy files. We helped facilitate several consultation sessions on issues from water and wastewater to housing, we organized educational webinars and, we got down to work on planning Service with Purpose – NSFAM’s first in-person Annual Conference and AGM since COVID.

The team also continued with an extensive review of all member programs and services. From group insurance to health and benefits to procurement, we are looking at our offerings to ensure they match your needs and to understand where there might be other opportunities for you.

Service means understanding. By consulting with our members, we’ve confirmed many things we thought were issues, and listened to your ideas for what to look at in the future as we continue to expand our organization and increase our ability be an indispensable resource to our membership.

Expansion has been the name of the game for us recently. We’ve grown our staff in the last year with new senior management positions for operations and policy, the addition of a research assistant, and the launch of the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund -adding an additional seven employees.

By adding capacity, we increase our ability to take on projects, offer new services, and create opportunities for our members. Our expertise continues to grow, and I’m very pleased with the new strategic focus we’ll be able to place on future-planning at NSFAM.

We will continue our long-standing partnership with the Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia to bring the membership relevant webinars and educational sessions. In terms of publications, next year we will introduce the inaugural issue of the Atlantic Municipal Magazine – A collaboration with the municipal associations in our region. The issue will take a deep dive into the leadership of locally elected officials throughout the Fiona disaster – and into emergency preparedness in general.

I look forward to travelling more in the coming months, including attending Advocacy Days in Ottawa with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Work with the federal government continues to be an important part of municipal advocacy including talks on permanent transit funding and disaster mitigation funds for damage caused by a changing climate. Now that in-person meetings have resumed, I’m back on the road when I can be to meet with members and hear about the issues that are important to you and your councils. Some are unique to your communities, some stretch across regions, and some are province wide. All help to inform NSFAM’s work, allowing us to better represent you.

As always, I welcome your emails, and phone calls.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,
Juanita

Inside the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness

In conversation with Leanne Hachey & Laurel Broten
(moderated by Matt Campbell)

“What does regulation have to do with anything?” asked Laurel Broten, the CEO of Nova Scotia Business Inc as she lead a discussion with Laurel Hachey, the Executive Director of Regulatory Reform and Partnership for the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. While certainly not a simple answer—the question has special meaning for the Office, where seeking regulatory excellence is a way of life.

“The fact that regulation is being put on a level with taxation and labour is music to my ears,” explained Hachey. “In 2015 we were given a mandate to improve the regulatory environment in Nova Scotia. We came into an empty office, with no computers, and we had to decide how do we take this incredible expansive mandate and do something with just four people? We knew we couldn’t boil the ocean – we had to pick some areas to focus.”

Choosing first to focus on business, because of the economic impact of improving regulation on business, the Office split into three development streams: assessing and measuring regulation, navigation—helping businesses navigate a complex regulatory environment, and partnerships—working with government to align regulation practices.

“Regulation is about mitigating risk—but we need to find the right balance,” commented Broten. “It takes leadership to say what your risk tolerance is and what you want to do—and you have some ‘oomph’ when you say you’re ready to step up to make those changes.”

“One of the insights we’ve had over our seven years is how keen departments are to be part of our bigger story,” added Hachey. “In the absence of our office, a department may have done some great work to improve a form or a process—but it would have been a standalone item. When we have an overall corporate initiative, that item contributes to something larger and helps to tell the story of how government, corpo-

rately, is moving in the right direction when it comes to a regulatory environment.”

Over the pandemic the office put in long hours to capture the regulatory innovations that departments had to enact to operate effectively. These stories, collectively, contributed to a larger idea of how the pandemic affected regulations and what can be learned in the future.

“Regulation reform is very incremental,” said Hachey. “As standalone items it’s really hard to get momentum behind them, when they are part of a larger picture—like setting a burden reduction target—that one initiative adds up with the others that are implemented to knock the ball out of the park in terms of what can be achieved

“It’s very hard to describe what burden-reduction looks like when not measured in dollars or time,” she continued. “This is why we came together to develop the Business Impact Assessment tool, which is based on a globally recognized methodology that helps to quantify the impact of individual regulatory changes. So now we can describe changes with numbers—instead of ‘we moved a process online’, we can say ‘we moved a process online, and in doing so saved this many dollars for the industry’.”

The department has found a niche in finding ways to articulate what regulatory reform looks like in a concrete and powerful way.

“That’s the power of having corporate focus and having partners that can get behind the need to quantify the impact of the changes they are driving,” she explained.

The full discussion between the Office of Regulatory Affairs and The Institute of Public Administration of Canada can be found on IPACNS’ YouTube Channel.



NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORKS **PARTNERS for PROGRESS**

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Regional Enterprise Networks (RENS), the Valley Regional Enterprise Network (Valley REN), as host organization, invites you to attend the fourth annual Partners for Progress Conference. Last held in 2019 due to the pandemic, the conference has returned, and the RENs are excited and eager to connect once again in person on November 7 and 8, 2022 at Acadia University.

The Valley REN is pleased to host this annual conference in the Annapolis Valley which will feature presentations from Nova Scotia's seven Regional Enterprise Networks (RENS) on key projects being undertaken and guest speakers discussing sector and business solutions.

We welcome you to join with members of the seven RENs, government partners of all levels and other economic development stakeholders for this conference which begins on the evening of November 7 with an opening reception and continues November 8 from 8:30am to 3:15pm with the conference agenda.

To register, visit
<https://PartnersforProgress.eventbrite.ca>

Regional Enterprise Networks address economic development opportunities and challenges in rural Nova Scotia.
<https://nsrens.ca/>



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Campaign School en Français

For several years, NSFM has focused on engaging women who wish to become involved in municipal politics. This continues to be a priority even while we celebrate a recent uptick in gender parity in municipal elections. Despite this progress, there has been a noticeable gap in training materials for French-speaking women in Nova Scotia.

To address this, NSFM has partnered with the Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FFANE) on a new project funded through the Inclusive Community Initiatives Grant offered by Women and Gender Equality Canada through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

NSFM and the FFANE will be administrating a project with two core functions. The first is a survey of elected officials that will assist in collecting data on the number of French speaking politicians—as well as information on engagement efforts and barriers to inclusion of the francophone com-

munity in local government. The second function will be encouraging the participation of Acadian, francophone, and French-speaking women in municipal politics by translating current Campaign School materials provided by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women into French.

This training consists of five facilitated online modules: Deciding to Run, Learning the Political Landscape, Planning Your Campaign, Getting Your Message Out and Knowing Your Community. By increasing access to the course materials, French-speaking women will have an additional resource to support their participation in the municipal electoral process.

The materials will be facilitated by French-speaking local government mentors through four online sessions. Both the FFANE and NSFM will assist in recruiting mentors and promoting the sessions through their respective networks. “To our knowledge, there are currently no French-language Campaign School materials

that are adapted to the reality of the Nova Scotian context,” said Claire Gabriot, project coordinator with the FFANE. “This project will provide an opportunity for French speaking women to see themselves as viable candidates in the local political arena.”

“This is a first-time partnership between NSFM and the FFANE,” said Dani Coffey, Director of Operations at NSFM. “While NSFM offers expertise in the municipal political process, as well as the ability to collect information from its members, the FFANE has deep knowledge of the Acadian and French-speaking community throughout Nova Scotia. It’s an excellent opportunity to combine resources and expertise to promote diversity in local government.”

This initiative is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



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Depuis plusieurs années, NSFM se concentre sur l'engagement des femmes qui souhaitent s'impliquer dans la politique municipale. Cela continue d'être une priorité, même si nous célébrons une récente augmentation de la parité des genres dans les élections municipales. Malgré ces progrès, il y a eu un manque notable de matériel de formation pour les femmes d'expression française en Nouvelle-Écosse.

Pour y remédier, la NSFM s'est associée à la Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FFANE) dans le cadre d'un nouveau projet financé par l'Initiative pour des collectivités inclusives, offerte par Femmes et égalité des genres Canada par l'entremise de la Fédération canadienne des municipalités (FCM).

La NSFM et la FFANE administreront un projet comportant deux volets principaux. Le premier : un sondage auprès des élu.e.s qui permettra de recueillir des données sur le nombre de politiciens d'expression française, ainsi que des informations sur les efforts d'engagement et les obstacles à l'inclusion de la communauté francophone dans le gouvernement au niveau municipal. Le deuxième volet consistera à encourager la participation des femmes acadiennes, francophones et d'expression française à la politique municipale en traduisant en français le « Campaign school » (école de campagne) développé par le Conseil consultatif sur la condition féminine de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Cette formation comporte cinq modules : (1) décider de se présenter, (2) découvrir le paysage politique, (3) planifier sa campagne, (4) faire passer son message et (5) connaître sa communauté. En améliorant l'accès au matériel du cours, les femmes d'expression française disposeront d'une ressource supplémentaire pour soutenir leur participation au processus électoral municipal.

Le matériel sera bonifié par quatre sessions de mentorat en ligne avec des mentors francophones des collectivités locales. La FFANE et la NSFM aideront à recruter des mentors et à promouvoir les sessions à travers leurs réseaux respectifs. « À notre connaissance, il n'existe actuellement aucun matériel d'école de campagne en français adapté à la réalité du contexte néo-écossais », a déclaré

Claire Gabriot, coordinatrice du projet à la FFANE. « Ce projet donnera l'occasion aux femmes francophones de se voir comme des candidates viables dans l'arène politique locale. »

« Il s'agit d'un premier partenariat entre NSFM et la FFANE », a déclaré Dani Coffey, directrice des opérations à NSFM. « Alors que NSFM offre une expertise dans le processus politique municipal, ainsi que la capacité de récolter des données auprès de ses membres, la FFANE a une connaissance approfondie de la communauté acadienne et francophone de toute la Nouvelle-Écosse. C'est une excellente occasion de combiner nos ressources et nos expertises pour promouvoir la diversité dans les gouvernements locaux. »

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CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN MUNICIPAL PROCUREMENT

By Jesse Patenaude, Manager of Business Development

If there's one thing that all municipalities across Canada have in common, it's the mandate to serve their residents as well and as cost-effectively as possible. Many taxpayers want to know what their tax dollars are paying for and how that money is being put to the best use possible. If that weren't enough pressure, the provincial and federal governments regularly ask municipalities to find ways to do more with less. Throw in the often-complex world of trade legislation compliance and it's no wonder that many municipal staff find procurement stressful.

Fortunately for many municipalities, the large volume of certain purchases puts them in the advantageous position of being able to negotiate better pricing and, in some cases, better service. To expand this advantage further, organizations that have similar procurement needs can work together to leverage their combined purchasing power. These steps can help municipalities realize increased cost savings and effectively 'do more with less'.



Of course, combining purchases is not a real option if the process isn't compliant with relevant trade legislation. No organization is interested in risking fines or prosecution just to save a little money. Legal counsel can provide guidance to ensure the details are correctly in place ahead of any group buying activity.

While there are many municipalities that have formed local cooperative purchasing agreements on specific goods and services, there are also procurement groups that may be able to fill in the gaps. However, as not all group purchasing organizations are created equal, it may be beneficial to consider certain factors such as (1) whether or not the organization supports local dealer networks, (2) if it works with the local municipal association, (3) how open its procurement process is, (4) if it has representatives available to meet and provide answers or support, and (5) if it's able to provide peace of mind in legislative compliance.

At the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada, we're proud to be a not-for-profit buying group focused on the municipal, not-for-profit, and public sectors. Because of our municipal roots (we were formed from the collaboration of municipal associations across Canada, including NSFMM), we have grown our municipal-focused offerings to over 200 suppliers in more than 60 categories, the majority of which are used by municipalities every day. Construction equipment, office supplies, bulk fuel, tires, snow removal, playground supply, and more are available via cooperative contracts that have already been tendered on behalf of our members.

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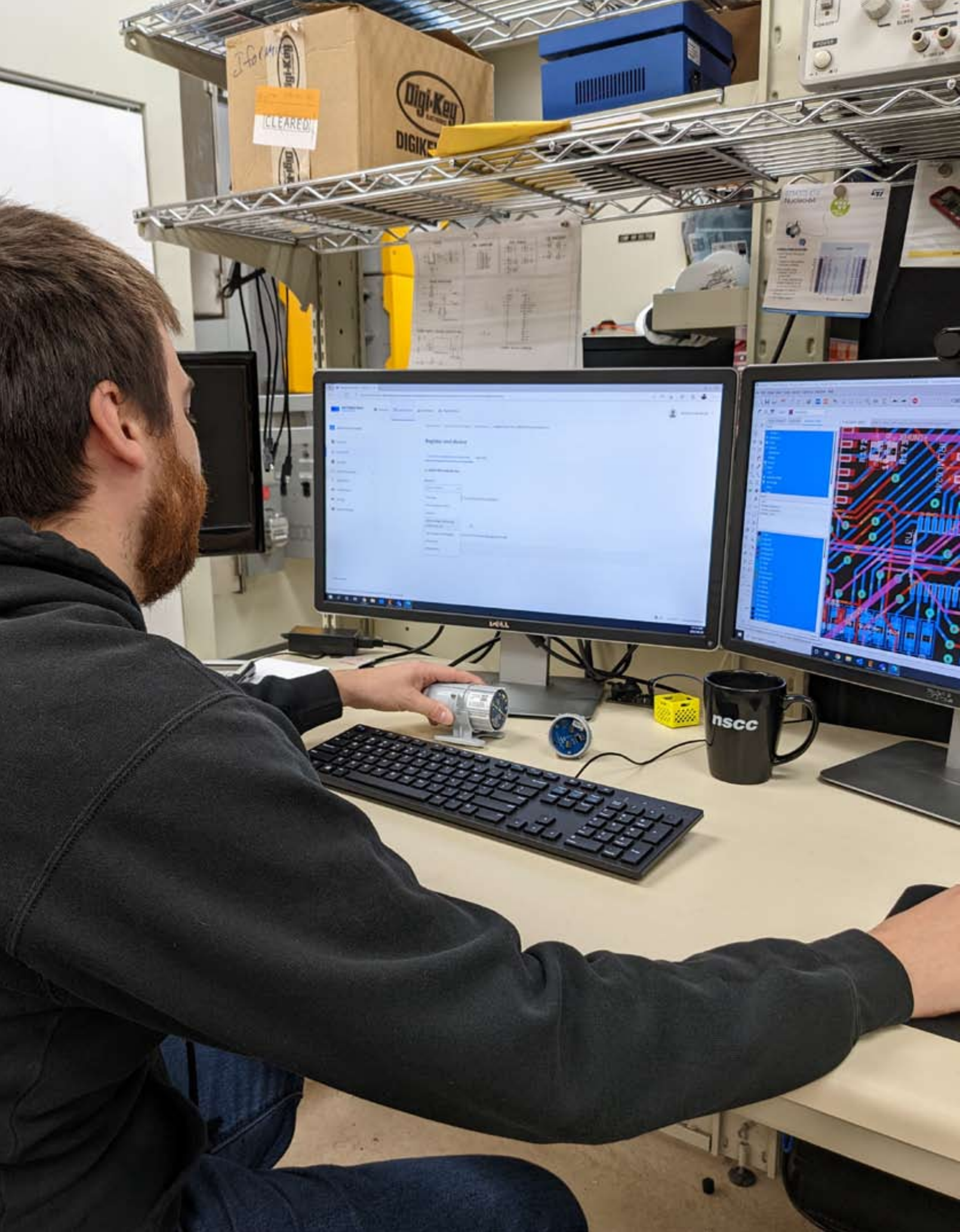


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Using Data to Reduce Energy Poverty

Nicki Hall, Communications Associate, Applied Research, Nova Scotia Community College

The Town of Bridgewater has made a name for itself as a community that is going above and beyond to tackle climate change and affordable housing challenges. Continuously thinking outside of the box, Bridgewater's investments in green business ideas and research have attracted entrepreneurs and innovators with similar ambitions to work in this thriving Nova Scotian town.

Energize Bridgewater aims to reduce energy poverty and address the climate crisis in a way that includes the most vulnerable residents of the community. This visionary work presented an ideal opportunity to collaborate with the Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) Applied Energy Research Lab. Led by Dr. Wayne Groszko, the AERLab works with industry and communities to solve energy challenges.

"Our lab has extensive experience in energy monitoring and communicating data-driven findings related to energy use," said Dr. Groszko. "We decided to work together to develop a proof-of-concept for a residential energy management information system. This project draws on my team's skills and aligns with the Town's goals."

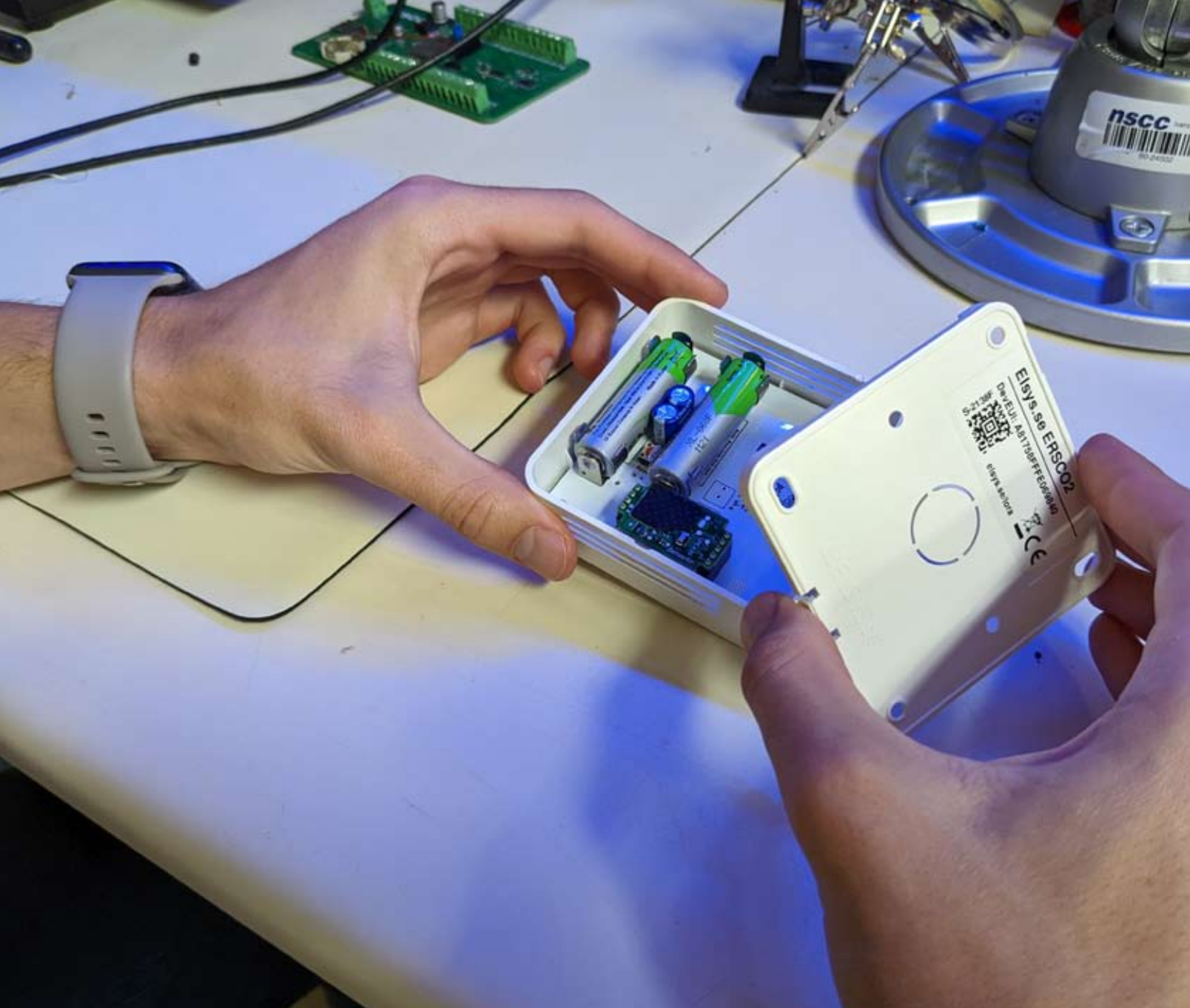


Thank You

On July 26, 2022 the Government of Nova Scotia announced the Nova Scotia Municipal Finance Corporation operations and functions will be transferred to the Department of Finance and Treasury Board. This is the result of a provincial review of all crown corporations which began with the issuance of ministerial mandate letters in September of 2021.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities has been an important voice on our Board of Directors. We would like to thank the present and former representatives that have sat on our Board for providing great leadership for the Corporation.





Jessica McDonald, the Town of Bridgewater’s Energize Bridgewater Project Director, explains how an energy management information system is an important piece of supporting infrastructure and will help them meet their ambitious goals:

“An energy management information system is an integrated system that collects data on energy usage in a building and provides feedback on how to manage that energy usage to save money and reduce emissions.

Once fully developed and deployed, this tool will help our residents cut their energy bills and help us measure progress towards our sustainability goals.” The sophisticated system measures data such as household energy consumption, heating performance, air quality and many other vital pieces of information. What makes this project unique is that this complex system that is usually only available for larger commercial buildings will be deployed community-wide at the household level. Even more interesting is that these systems will first be offered to households

in situations where it is difficult for them to pay their energy bills.

“Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of energy poverty in the country,” said Bridgewater’s mayor, David Mitchell. “The Town of Bridgewater envisions a future for our community where energy poverty reduction strategies work together with clean and efficient energy systems to confront energy poverty at its core.”

Dr. Groszko and his team are currently testing the proof-of-concept for the energy management information system in their lab at Ivany Campus in Dartmouth. They hope to participate in field trials with beta-test users in the coming months.

“We are preparing the scope of work for the field-testing stage and for the design of a follow-up support system,” said Groszko. “This next step speaks to the relationship between the energy management information system and the residents who will be invited to make use of it. It will address questions on how to make the information understandable and actionable, how residents will know if their energy situation is improving and who to call if they

have a question. We are part of the team that will be looking at these human factors.”

NSCC is excited to be working with the Town of Bridgewater on this forward-thinking project. Once it is operating, this project could be used in communities across Canada to provide residents with information on their energy usage and show them ways to save

money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Nova Scotia Community College has 5 Applied Research Labs that can assist municipalities with innovative projects. Project funding may be available through Mitacs. Find out more at www.nssc.ca/appliedresearch or contact Matt Adams at madams@mitacs.ca

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10 Canadian Communities Battle Flooding and Wildfires through Projects Aimed at Developing Climate Resilience

The impacts of climate change cannot be ignored with effects increasingly felt across the country. More frequent and severe weather events are forcing communities to adapt and better prepare to handle the impacts. Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities as they are responsible for 60% of infrastructure and need to ensure they are prepared to minimize losses and damages.

As communities battle extreme weather, Intact Public Entities (IPE) and the Intact Financial Corporation (IFC) are doubling down on helping people adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. They recently invested in 10 communities and organizations across Canada to bolster resiliency in areas where climate has the ability to have an adverse effect.

The 10 grant recipients all focus on developing initiatives that mitigate the risk of flood and wildfire. Severe weather resulted in \$2.1 billion in insured damages in 2021. ¹ These devastating events are not only costly for municipalities and residents, but they hold a lasting impact on the communities. The projects supported by the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants are scalable initiatives that can be implemented by other municipalities and organizations across the country that are faced with similar climate related risks. By implementing climate strategies in their communities, the grant recipients hope to prepare, protect and even prevent damages in the future.

Every year wildfires destroy an average of 2.5 million hectares of land in Canada, nearly half the size of Nova Scotia. ² Five grant recipients are focussing their efforts on projects aimed at reducing the impacts of wildfires. These projects range from the development of firebreaks in heavily forested areas to prevent or slow the spread of fires to surrounding areas; the pur-

chase of a sprinkler trailer to be used to combat fires across multiple areas; as well as various FireSmart™ homeowner rebate programs to upgrade home finishes to fireproof and fire-resistant materials.

Flooding is also greatly affecting Canadian communities, particularly those in low-lying and coastal areas. Last year's flooding in British Columbia was one of the most devastating and expensive climate disasters of the year. ³ Through the development of urban wetlands and other natural water management infrastructure; homeowner flood reduction rebates for the installation of sump pumps and back up batteries; and an online neighbourhood risk portal, grant recipients are protecting their communities with practical and worthwhile solutions.

Projects supported by the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants are underway with some nearing completion as early as next spring. Helping people adapt to climate change is one of the pillars of Intact's five-part climate strategy. Through the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants program, Intact is supporting initiatives that mitigate the impacts flooding and wildfire have on communities. Read more about the 10 grant recipients at <https://www.intactpublicentities.ca/the-intact-foundation>

[1] "Severe Weather in 2021 Caused \$2.1 Billion in Insured Damage," Insurance Bureau of Canada, January 18, 2022, <http://www.IBC.ca/news-resources/media-centre/media-releases/severe-weather-in-2021-caused-2-1-billion-in-insured-damage>.

[2] "Forest Fires," Natural Resources Canada, Government of Canada, April 14, 2022, <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/forests/wildland-fires-insects-disturbances/forest-fires/13143>

[3] Labbé, Stefan. 2021. Review of B.C. *Floods among World's Most Devastating Climate Events of 2021*. Times Colonist. December 26, 2021. <https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/bc-floods-among-worlds-most-devastating-climate-events-of-2021-4889297> |



Building Climate Resilient Communities Together

Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants Announced

Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from the impacts of climate change. Intact Public Entities and the Intact Financial Corporation have just invested \$1 million in 10 communities across Canada to bolster resiliency where climate has the ability to have a negative impact. The selected applicants will implement a variety of projects, including those that create a new wetland by engaging youth, offer FireSmart™ approved enhancements to at-risk homes, build fire breaks around vulnerable communities and provide advance flood prevention information to local residents.

To learn more about these community initiatives visit us at
intactpublicentities.ca/the-intact-foundation





Canada Community Building Fund Assists Shelburne Marine Terminal Upgrade

Shelburne Marine Terminal Upgrade

Project category: Tourism infrastructure

Nature of investment: Renewal/upgrade

National objective: Strong cities and communities

Project benefits: Increase tourism through national, international, and provincial channels to promote economic development and tourism

Completed 2020-21

Total project cost: \$852 819

Total CCBF \$141 555

Shelburne Harbour is one of the great natural harbours of Nova Scotia, if not the world.

A major infrastructure asset for the Port of Shelburne is the Shelburne Marine Terminal, which the Town of Shelburne acquired almost two decades ago. The terminal's T-shaped wharf is roughly 300 metres long and 15-20 metres wide. This shape has created two

inner basins, the deeper of which (to the west) is used by Clearwater and the other (to the east) by smaller fishing and recreational vessels. In addition to fish and other seafood, the marine terminal handles containers and bulk shipments. According to Harold Locke, Mayor of the Town of Shelburne, and Penny Smith, Warden of the Municipality of Shelburne, local estimates attribute approximately

250 jobs directly or indirectly to the terminal, including those in fisheries, tourism, ship repair, and general commerce.

Five years ago the marine terminal was in disrepair, which led to concern that a major asset of the port could be lost in the future. Along with assistance from Develop Nova Scotia, ACOA, and the Shelburne Port Authority, The Town



of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne invested \$141,555 from their Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) allocations to provide upgrades that would prolong the life of the terminal. “The Municipality of Shelburne was pleased to partner with the Town of Shelburne and others in support of the terminal that acts as a vital economic driver for local

communities and to help secure its sustainability for the future” said Warden Smith.

Recognizing that cruise ships, sail boats, and other pleasure craft are becoming significant drivers of economic development, the Shelburne Marine Terminal has since sought to accommodate these vessels as well as the more

traditional users of the facility. The terminal is now in the difficult but enviable situation of all berthage being leased and may have to decline many one-time berthage and unloading opportunities in the future. “Shelburne harbour is one of the best natural harbours in the world ... and therefore in great demand” said Mayor Locke.





Applications Open for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

The NSFM has partnered with the Province of Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change to deliver a provincial grant program for local action on climate change in Nova Scotia.

Communities in Nova Scotia can soon apply for grants to implement the climate action they have decided is important to them. The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund supports community efforts to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions, or to prepare

for and respond to the impacts of a changing climate. A wide range of projects are eligible for funding, from renewable energy, to public outreach initiatives, to coastal restoration.

The Fund was announced earlier this year, and work has been underway to establish the management structure, design the funding program and prepare for applicants. A distinct team of staff is dedicated to the Fund administration, at arm's length from the core

NFSM operations. An external review committee of multidisciplinary experts will evaluate applications.

Quick Facts

The Fund is open to municipalities, as well as First Nations, non-profits and post-secondary institutions. It provides non-repayable grants up to 80% of the eligible project costs, and a maximum of \$1,000,000 per project. The minimum grant per project is \$75,000. For all the details, and to join the mailing list, visit nschallengfund.ca

Funding Streams

Projects in the Mitigation Stream seek to avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to Nova Scotia's targets for emission reduction. Focus areas under this stream include:

- Buildings;
 - Transportation;
 - Energy generation and storage;
 - Waste management and circular economy; and,
 - Carbon storage and sequestration.
- Projects in the Adaptation Stream help communities improve their capacity to adapt to climate change, with the goal of reducing vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems. Focus areas under this stream include:
- Built environment and climate-resilient infrastructure;
 - Ecosystems and nature-based solutions; and,
 - Community coordination and planning.

Resources and Supports

Fund staff are available to discuss your project idea, learn about your objectives, and help to ensure your project fits within the eligible funding streams and organizations. All the details about the Fund eligibility and requirements can also be found in the Applicant Guide, webinars, and in-person meetings through the province.

There are additional low-barrier supports, available to projects that will directly involve and benefit equity-deserving communities who disproportionately experience the negative effects of climate change and face barriers to mitigation efforts. Low-barrier sup-

ports are intended to enable empowering collaboration with applicants (and recipients) in ways that are useful to them.

More Information

Please reach out to the Fund team at any time with questions, comments or ideas at info@sccfns.ca. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Visit nschallengfund.ca for details and to join the mailing list.





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The Force and Focus of Hurricane Fiona

Hurricane Fiona was one for the history books. It was historic both in size and impact and our storm response effort was too. By the time the hurricane force winds finished sweeping across Nova Scotia, about 415,000 NS Power customers were without power and more than 1,500 field workers were on the ground, in communities across our province, working night and day to get the power back on.

NS Power powerline technicians and contractors were joined by crews from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and the New England states. They were supported by damage assessors, forestry technicians, traffic control and other field support, along with the Canadian Armed Forces and Department of Natural Resources personnel. There were hundreds more behind the scenes supporting our customers and crews. It truly was an all-hands-on deck approach.

Helicopters were used to patrol the lines to get a better idea of the extent of the damage. For the first time during storm response, drones were also used. This technology gave crews a real time look at what they were facing. The damage was unprecedented. Communities across the province experienced damage like never seen before:

- approximately 8000 trees on power lines
- more than 2,000 thousand broken or leaning poles due to downed trees
- more than 500 downed transformers
- many roads blocked by fallen trees

This made restoration efforts complex and longer to complete. Multiple steps had to be taken before crews could even start to make repairs.

In many cases:

- Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of Natural Resources personnel removed trees and cleared brush so field workers could gain access to streets
- debris had to be removed from power lines
- new equipment or material had to be brought in
- once the area was cleaned up the broken poles and/or other electrical equipment could

start to be repaired

- given the extent of the damage, entire sections of line needed to be rebuilt.

It was a difficult time for our customers who were without power, yet, as tough as it was, the community support and appreciation shown to our crews was incredible. Communities and municipalities across this province played a role, whether it was providing meals to crews, dropping off coffee and baked goods or sharing kind words. We are grateful for the support from grocery chains and local restaurants to retail stores and other local businesses, as well as individual community members.

However, the work didn't stop when the lights came back on. Some of the very crews who were part of the 1500+ people in the field working to restore power in Fiona's aftermath, stayed in the province to help with post storm cleanup. Nearly 225 NS Power power line technicians and contractors from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as well as many forestry workers took part. While they weren't working under the same intense conditions or public attention, they were doing some really important work that could be done immediately, to help prevent outages down the road.

One of the main focuses of this work involved identifying trees that had been weakened by the hurricane force winds and trimming or removing them so they won't fall into our lines in storms down the road. They were also making permanent repairs to power poles. During the storm crews often make a temporary fix to a pole to get it back up in a safe manner in order to provide power to the customers affected by an outage. After the storm they go back and make permanent repairs as part of the cleanup work. Another important component that follows every storm, is a debrief. It's an opportunity to discuss what worked well, what we might be able to improve for the next one and incorporate learnings into future planning. As we move forward from Fiona, our team will continue to assess our response and work with our partners in EMO to ensure all of the learnings are included in our plans for the next major storm. We will also remain grateful for the true team effort displayed in communities across the province, and for the role everyone played in supporting one another through the force of Fiona.



**Wela'liog.
Tapadh leibh.
Merci.
Thank you
for showing up
for our communities.**

On September 24th 2022, Hurricane Fiona made landfall in Nova Scotia. As the storm swept across the province, it brought unprecedented damage. We want to express our gratitude to our customers for your patience and support as we worked to restore power.

We'd also like to thank all the EMO organizations, the Province of Nova Scotia, Municipalities, Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP, Municipal Police Forces, the hundreds of local businesses from every corner of the province and the crews from across Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and New England.

Hurricane Fiona was powerful. So was your support.

Connect Atlantic
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Gagnon
Green Mountain Power
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Northline
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