

WINTER 2023

Municipal observer

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



**Truro's Flood Resilience:
A Decade of Preparedness and
Community Engagement**

**Wolfville Readies its Latest Phase
of Wastewater Upgrades**

THE PLANNING EXCELLENCE ISSUE



Is your system still running on R22? We can help.

From system retrofits to engineering a new ice rink system, Berg's ice rink chiller experts can help create a solution that will suit your operational needs. With Berg solutions, your ice will always be ready for your community when they want it.

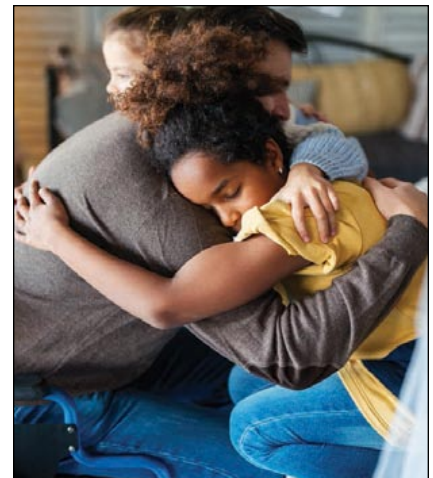
Contact Us: 1-902-334-2630
bergsales@berg-group.com

5	President’s Message <i>President Carolyn Bolivar-Getson</i>	24	How Flood Resilient is Your Community?
6	Chief Executive Officer’s Message <i>CEO Juanita Spencer</i>	25	NSFM’s Fall Conference 2023
8	2023 Partners for Progress Conference	26	Carbon Surcharge Fund Award 2023
10	Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants	28	Climate Change Leader Award 2023
12	Time for a New Municipal Growth Framework	30	Wolfville Readies its Latest Phase of Wastewater Upgrades
14	Truro’s Flood Resilience	33	Changing our Response in Light of Changing Weather <i>NS Power</i>
19	Unlocking Opportunities		
20	Building Resilience		



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

Cover Photo – Halifax Waterfront



Building healthier,
stronger communities.

medavie.ca



AD-122 O4/22 * Trade-mark of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans.
* Trade-mark of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association



HUB International is a proud partner of the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities** group benefits and wellness plans

Continue to call on us as we work together to support employees’ evolving needs.

www.hubinternational.com

HUB

Cheryl Kane Senior Vice President
Office: 902-474-3282
Mobile: 902-456-9633
cheryl.kane@hubinternational.com

Janine McInnis Associate Vice President
Office: 902-474-3293
Mobile: 902-789-3003
janine.mcinnis@hubinternational.com

Brad Wilson Consultant
Mobile: 902-233-7384
brad.wilson@hubinternational.com

NSFM Board of Directors 2023



Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
President



Councillor Eldon MacDonald
CBRM
Representative



Mayor Sandra Snow
Town of Kentville
Vice-President



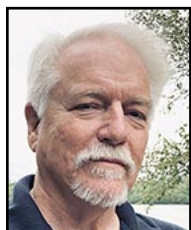
Councillor Andy Thompson
Municipality of Pictou Colchester-Cumberland-Pictou-East Hants
Representative



Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury
Past-President



Councillor Sam Austin
HRM
Representative



Deputy Warden James Fuller
Municipality of St. Mary's Cape Breton Strait
Representative



Councillor Paul Russell
HRM
Representative



Mayor Laurie Boucher
Town of Antigonish Cape Breton Strait
Representative



Councillor Belle Hatfield
Town of Yarmouth Southwestern Shore
Representative



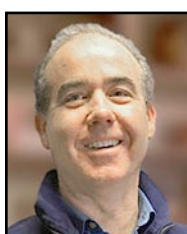
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg South Shore
Representative



Councillor Paula Huntley
Town of Kentville Valley
Representative



Councillor Maddie Charlton
Region of Queens South Shore
Representative



John MacKinnon
AMANS
Representative

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

**Better government.
Stronger communities.**

The NSFM is a not-for-profit organization mandated to represent the interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia. Total membership is 375 elected officials representing all 49 municipalities.

Contact NSFM at:
Ph: 902-423-8331
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington St.,
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
www.nsfm.ca
info@nsfm.ca



Publication Information

Municipal Observer is the publication for the NSFM. It is a joint publication of the NSFM and CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing).

All rights reserved. Contents reproduced only with consent of NSFM and CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing). Articles and information in this magazine represent the opinions of the writers and the information that, to the best of our knowledge was accurate at time of writing.

Published for the NSFM:
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street,
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
902-423-8331
info@nsfm.ca

Published by
CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing)
304 – 40 Regency Park Drive
Halifax, NS B3S 1L4

Editor: Kevin Bottaro
Design: Allison Churchill
Sales Manager: Walter Niekamp



Building Resilience

By President Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

In a world marked by uncertainty and unforeseen challenges, the need for Planning Excellence has never been more apparent. As president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, I am deeply committed to advocating for sound planning practices that encompass not only zoning and financial management but also robust disaster preparation. This comprehensive approach is the bedrock of resilient communities. As you delve into the pages of this magazine, the theme of Planning Excellence echoes throughout, casting a spotlight on Nova Scotia's remarkable resilience through challenging times.

In recent years, Nova Scotia has faced its share of natural disasters and emergencies. From severe weather events to a global health crisis, these events have reinforced the critical importance of having a well-thought-out emergency preparedness plan in place. Our communities have experienced firsthand the benefits of meticulous planning, which ultimately determines our ability to respond effectively and recover swiftly in times of adversity.

Zoning: The Blueprint for a Resilient Future

Zoning regulations play a pivotal role in safeguarding our communities against disasters. Thoughtful zoning practices ensure that we build in safe areas, minimize exposure to hazards, and protect our natural environment. By adhering to zoning codes, we not only enhance the quality of life in our municipalities but also reduce the risk of damage during emergencies.

Sound Financial Management: The Cornerstone of Preparedness

Financial stability is another crucial element of Planning Excellence. Well-managed municipal budgets enable us to allocate resources for emergency services, infrastructure improvements and disaster recovery efforts. By maintaining fiscal responsibility, we ensure that our communities can weather economic

downturns and still provide essential services to our residents when they need them most.

Disaster Preparation: The Heart of Resilience

At the core of our Planning Excellence theme is disaster preparation. This encompasses not only emergency response plans but also community engagement and education. It means having clear evacuation routes, well-equipped emergency shelters and trained first responders. It means fostering a culture of resilience where citizens are informed, empowered, and actively participate in disaster preparedness activities. The recent storms, fires, and floods are a testament to the significance of disaster preparation. Communities that have robust emergency preparedness plans in place are better equipped to protect their residents and mitigate damage. This experience reinforces the need for comprehensive crisis management strategies that encompass all potential threats.

Planning Excellence is not just about adhering to governmental norms; it is about building the foundation for resilient communities that can thrive in the face of adversity. Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is committed to advocating for zoning regulations that protect our citizens, promote sound financial practices that secure our future and develop comprehensive disaster preparedness that ensures our collective safety.

As we move forward, remember that our communities are stronger when we plan for the unexpected. By fostering Planning Excellence, we invest in a better future for Nova Scotia.



Navigating Crisis

By CEO Juanita Spencer

In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to crises is an essential aspect of governance. As Chief Executive Officer of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, I am proud to highlight our members' commitment to Planning Excellence in Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness. Municipalities have demonstrated time and again that they are not only resilient but also adept at tackling unforeseen challenges head-on. Within the pages of this edition of *Municipal Observer*, you will gain insight into the astute crisis navigation skills demonstrated by Nova Scotians.

Preparation is the Key to Success

Emergency preparedness is more than just a buzz term, it is a mindset. In Nova Scotia, we understand that the best way to handle a crisis is to prevent it from happening in the first place. This requires meticulous planning, robust infrastructure and a dedicated workforce. Our municipalities have embraced this philosophy wholeheartedly,

investing in early warning systems, disaster recovery plans and training programs for emergency responders.

Collaboration and Communication

One of the cornerstones of Planning Excellence in Crisis Management is the seamless collaboration between municipalities, provincial

agencies and community stakeholders. Municipalities foster a culture of open communication and information sharing, which has proven invaluable during crises. When responding to natural disasters like hurricanes or forest fires, the coordinated efforts of municipalities have consistently minimized damage and saved lives."

A Trusted Partner
Proudly providing customized
insurance solutions and expert
advice to NSFM members
since 1996.

Darryl J. Wilson 902.752.8004
Darryl_Wilson@ajg.com

Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Limited
www.ajgcanada.com


Gallagher
Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Investing in Technology and Innovation

The rapid advancement of technology plays a pivotal role in our emergency preparedness efforts. Nova Scotia's municipalities have harnessed the power of modern technology to monitor weather patterns, track potential threats and disseminate critical information to the public swiftly. From social media updates to smartphone apps, innovation helps to keep our communities informed and safe.

Community Engagement and Education

In times of crisis, knowledge is power; that is why a strong emphasis on educating our members is important. Through workshops, webinars, public awareness campaigns and online programs, our members are empowered. The stronger the community, the more resilient it becomes in the face of adversity. Education is the key to facing adversity.

Environmental Stewardship

Climate change is an escalating crisis, and Nova Scotia is not immune to its effects. Planning Excellence in Crisis Management means not only responding to emergencies but also addressing the root causes. Our municipalities have taken strides toward environmental sustainability, reducing carbon emissions and investing in green infrastructure. By mitigating the impact of climate change, we are proactively protecting our communities.

A Bright Future Ahead

As we look to the future, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities remains committed to supporting our members in Planning Excellence in Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness.

While crises may remain unpredictable, our response can always be well prepared. With meticulous planning, strategic alliances and

an unwavering dedication to our community's welfare, municipalities stand ready to confront any challenges that may arise. The articles herein serve as a testament to the remarkable Planning Excellence exhibited by Nova Scotia's municipalities, showcasing our ability to thrive collectively in the face of adversity.

THERE ARE 60 FULL TIME COMMISSIONAIRES SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACROSS NOVA SCOTIA SO SWORN OFFICERS CAN FOCUS ON THE JOB ONLY THEY CAN DO.

- FRONT LINE COUNTER DUTIES
- EVENT SECURITY
- PARKING ENFORCEMENT
- TRAFFIC CONTROL
- BYLAW ENFORCEMENT
- CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS
- INVESTIGATIONS
- MONITORING AND RESPONSE

commissionaires.ca

COMMISSIONAIRES

2023 Partners for Progress Conference in Pictou County

By the Pictou County Partnership

The last few years have been a whirlwind of activity across the province of Nova Scotia. From reaching the 1-million mark thanks to strategic population growth, to laying the groundwork for new and developing industries, Nova Scotia is a province on the move — so much so, that the provincial government has set an aggressive target to double our population by 2060, which means from an economic development perspective there is work to be done.

The Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Economic Development is supported by the Regional Enterprise Network model, which consists of seven regional enterprise networks across the province that help support businesses across the province and boost economic activity in each region. Nova Scotia's regional enterprise networks currently include the Western Regional Enterprise Network, Valley Regional Enterprise Network, Truro & Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, Cumberland Business Connector, Pictou County Partnership, Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network and Cape Breton Regional Municipality Regional Enterprise Network.

The Partners for Progress conference is held annually with a focus on bringing together leaders and employees across all regional enterprise networks, as well as partners, stakeholders, and rights-holders from across the province.

This year's conference was held November 28–30 in New Glasgow, hosted by the Pictou County Partnership. Among the three-day agenda, notable speakers included the Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia; the Honourable Sean Fraser, MP for Central Nova and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; and Ava Czapalay, Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration.

The discussions were focused through four economic lenses:

1. Growing Strategic Sectors: Growing our share of high-paying, high growth, and high-productivity sectors
2. Increasing Productivity: Enabling increased productivity for all sectors and businesses across the province
3. Planting the Seeds: Investing in new ideas and entrepreneurship to grow the economy
4. Community Focus: Ensuring all communities experience growth and prosperity

About the Pictou County Partnership

The Pictou County Partnership, formally known as the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network (PCREN), is a not-for-profit organization tasked with driving economic development in Pictou County. Through a partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, Pictou Landing First Nation, Municipality of Pictou County, and the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou, Stellarton, Trenton and Westville, the partnership initiates, leads, and contributes to sustainable economic growth in Pictou County by fostering a culture of collaboration, navigating organizations to the resources they need, and engaging in meaningful economic development projects. To learn more, visit <https://pictoucountypartnership.com>.

NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL
ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

PARTNERS for PROGRESS

2023 Conference

November 28-30, 2023

New Glasgow, N.S.



NOVA  SCOTIA

Invest 
NOVA SCOTIA

**PICTOU
COUNTY**
Partnership



Visit our Site 

Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants

One Year Later

What do climate resilient communities have in common? They recognize that natural assets, like wetlands, grasslands, and trees, can help to reduce the impacts of extreme weather and they support the people that live there by providing education, awareness, and tools to guide individuals and businesses to take preventative action and be better prepared for the consequences of a changing climate.

More and more often we are experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change induced extreme weather. In 2022, to support those on the front lines of protecting their communities, Intact Public Entities (IPE) and Intact Financial Corporation launched the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants which invested \$1 million into local initiatives that mitigate the risks and severity of flooding and wildfires, Canada's two largest climate risks.

Over the last year, the recipient municipalities and not-for-profit organizations have been hard at work putting action to their plans to help their communities better adapt to the harsh impacts of climate change. Projects implemented by recipients in the Maritimes were very successful and tackled both flood and wildfire prevention. Their resiliency projects can easily be scaled and adapted to not only communities in Atlantic Canada but across the country.

The Neighbourhood-Level Flood Risk Portal implemented by the City of Fredericton was developed to increase awareness and preparedness for different types of flooding within the community. Through in-house expertise and access to provincial data, the City was able to define four different types of flooding at the property level to incorporate into the portal. The portal launched earlier this summer with the intention of being a proactive learning tool for the community.

In Charlottetown, a Flood Action Rebate program was implemented for residents covering 75 per cent of the cost up to \$1,000 of eligible flood-related expenses

including sump pumps, back-up batteries, backwater valves, and water monitors/alarms. The level of interest for this program was high and many properties received upgrades that homeowners might have otherwise passed on or delayed.

In addition to the rebate program, the City of Charlottetown hosted a series of panel discussions to increase awareness and preparedness. Panel discussions focused on the City's strategy and action plan for improving flood resilience and what homeowners can do to protect their property.

With this year's record-breaking wildfire season, building wildfire resilience was also a priority in the Maritimes. The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia developed three separate, 15-metre-wide fire breaks to help improve wildfire resiliency. With the help of local forestry companies, the fire breaks will help to limit and slow the spread of wildfires allowing emergency response teams more time to react to outbreaks. To further improve resiliency, forest debris was removed from the perimeters of buildings to reduce wildfire fuel and to help protect infrastructure in the community.

The importance of building climate resilient communities is becoming more prevalent as extreme weather events related to climate change continue to increase. The initiatives supported by the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants can easily be scaled and adapted to fit different communities from coast to coast.

To read more about the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants recipients and their initiatives, visit www.intactpublicentities.ca/the-intact-foundation.



It's all in the details.

Especially when we're talking municipal insurance – it's what we live and breathe, it's even in our name.

A policy is a policy, except when it's not. We understand that your municipality requires so much more. With IPE in your corner, we can maximize risk mitigation and enhance the safety and resiliency of your community with our value added services.

Our team of experts are here to deliver a sustainable and trusted insurance program that is as unique as your municipality.

Connect with Paul Jewett, Regional Manager, Atlantic Canada

1 800 265 4000 | 506 866 1846 | paul.jewett@intactpublicentities.ca

**To learn more visit us at
[intactpublicentities.ca](https://www.intactpublicentities.ca)**





For a More Resilient, Growing Nova Scotia: Time for a New Municipal Growth Framework

By Scott Pearce, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

In May, I began my tenure as president of FCM, the national voice of Canada's local governments. Since then, I've been traveling to communities across Canada and connecting with hardworking local elected officials. Now, it's become very clear that we're at a very special moment in time.

Nova Scotians, like all Canadians, expect essential services and amenities to be there for them. It's a huge part of our quality of life. However, our national population is growing and so are communities across Nova Scotia. Alongside this growth, municipalities have taken on many new responsibilities: Extreme weather, the housing crisis, community safety and mental health are increasingly pulling on municipal resources. Since COVID, local governments — as the governments of proximity closest to Canadians — have been picking up the slack. We're stretched thin.

It's time for a new approach. The 19th-century system we have for funding municipalities is inflexible and doesn't cover our growing responsibilities. We can't keep doing more with less. It's time for a new municipal growth framework that modernizes municipal revenue and

links it to national dynamics like population and economic growth.

Nova Scotia's communities are facing real challenges. More housing — along with the core infrastructure to support it — is a priority in both urban and rural areas. There's also the pressing need for community amenities and public transportation. Across the province, we must also build up resilience and adaptation in the face of storms, flooding and wildfires that have impacted communities and will impact us more frequently.

FCM wants to build a better-supported, more resilient future for municipalities through engagement with members like you, with provincial associations like NSFM, and all orders of government. There is a major groundswell of support for this: in May, our membership, which represents more than 2000 municipalities, voted overwhelmingly in favour of pursuing a new framework. We know that nothing will break in our system if orders of governments sit down together and find long-term solutions.

A new municipal growth framework would support a growing Nova Scotia with the infrastructure, services and amenities needed to thrive, with communities better prepared and ready to respond to emergencies.

By joining FCM on this new path forward, Nova Scotia's municipalities can make sure they are better equipped for the future.

Let's use this special moment in time. The more we put into this drive, the further we can go, but to get there we need the help and strength of all our FCM members. Visit the Municipal Growth Framework page on our website at <https://fcm.ca/en> (or use the QR code displayed on this page) to learn more about this vital movement for change.

About the Author

Scott Pearce is President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Mayor of Gore, Quebec. FCM is the national voice for Canada's local governments, with more than 2000 members representing more than 92 percent of all Canadians.

Learn more:
Municipal Growth Framework





Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund provides provincial grants for local action on climate change in Nova Scotia.

A wide range of projects could be funded, like natural resource conservation, green jobs and on-site energy production.

Fund resources are available to First Nations bands and tribal councils, as well as Nova Scotia municipalities, post-secondary institutions, and registered non-profit organizations.

Please contact us to discuss the climate change projects that are important to your community.

The first round of available funding opens **November 7**.

The deadline for applications is **December 16**.

Find out more at nschallengefund.ca or contact the Fund team at any time with questions, comments or ideas. Email info@sccfns.ca / Phone **1.902.943.7906**

Truro's Flood Resilience: A Decade of Preparedness and Community Engagement

Mayor Bill Mills, with Charlene Fekeshazy

Local Flood Preparedness Initiatives

The Town of Truro, in collaboration with our Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO), has dedicated significant efforts to maintain the currency and effectiveness of our Emergency Response Plans. Following Hurricane Fiona, the Town of Truro initiated regular meetings with our internal emergency response team, enhancing local-level preparedness and response strategies. With the presence of our Truro Police Service, Truro Fire Service (comprising 24-hour career firefighters) and a well-equipped Public Works Department, we are fully equipped and ready to deploy trained personnel as needed. Moreover, we foster close coordination with key emergency response organizations, including Nova Scotia Power, to ensure a robust and efficient response system.

Emergency Preparedness in Truro

Subsequent to Hurricane Fiona, the Town has successfully obtained funding for the acquisition of two generators, enhancing the readiness of two local comfort centres to provide essential services during significant power outages.

Through the Joint Flood Advisory Committee (JFAC), a number of flood mitigation measures have been taken over the last 10 years. Some specific measures included raising the dykes, cleaning the river channels and installing a gate along a roadway where significant flooding can occur. In addition to this, the Province of Nova Scotia is also proactively reinstating salt marshes along the Salmon River.

Along with measures from the JFAC, the Town of

Truro has also adopted Truro Connect, an emergency response communication tool that allows subscribers to receive important information such as emergency alerts via a smartphone app, email, cellphone or landline.

Local measures have also been taken in neighbourhoods to help protect private property owners. This includes provisions for stormwater management on all new developments in Truro, but also enhancing the Town's own stormwater infrastructure throughout town, such as stormwater management ponds.

Local Flood Preparedness Initiatives

The Town of Truro now diligently prepares at the local level to address various potential threats, ranging from significant flooding to emergency events. In addition to monitoring weather patterns and reports, we closely track river levels. Our commitment to emergency preparedness extends to our collaboration with REMO, ensuring the highest level of readiness and response within the Town of Truro.

Truro's Flood Resilience Boosted

Truro has been fortunate to remain free from major river flooding for over a decade. However, when rivers swell or heavy rainfall inundates our town, the impact is felt by numerous residents and businesses.

Our community has shown a remarkable increase in awareness and personal preparedness. Many residents have developed their contingency plans, taking proactive measures to safeguard their properties during emergencies. Private generators, strategically



Jacobs Ladder



Riverfront Park Gazebo

placed sandbags, and other protective measures have become more common sights, reflecting a commitment to resilience.

In parallel, the Town of Truro has amplified its efforts to emphasize the significance of individual emergency preparedness as a vital component of our overall readiness. This involves disseminating crucial information on emergency readiness, road closures, flood-prone areas, and hazardous zones within the town. Additionally, we provide valuable insights on comfort centres and initiatives for community recovery and restoration.

Together, we are fortifying our community against the challenges of nature, fostering a united front in the face of adversity.

Emergency Response Support Plan

Numerous local businesses not only maintain their own disaster preparedness plans but also stand ready to support the Town during emergency situations. They stand poised to assist the broader community when called upon by the Town or REMO, bolstering our collective emergency response efforts.

Flood Mitigation and Preparedness

In 2015, the JFAC undertook a comprehensive regional flood study, delineating strategies for mitigating the escalating magnitude and frequency of major flood events at the regional level.

Over the past few years, the Town and REMO have dedicated substantial efforts to updating emergency response plans. These initiatives are geared towards



strengthening preparedness and response capabilities for significant weather-related incidents.

In September 2023, the Town of Truro introduced a flood assessment survey. This innovative tool empowers residents to report on flood-related impacts within the preceding year, encompassing the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona and substantial summer rainfall events in 2023. This invaluable data aids the Town in pinpointing flood-prone areas and potential emergency hazards. It plays a pivotal role in the Town's stormwater management and emergency response planning, guiding decisions on stormwater infrastructure investments and enhancing emergency preparedness in critical areas and neighbourhoods.

Since the early 2000s, the Town of Truro has mandated new developments to incorporate stormwater

management measures to curtail storm runoff. This crucial directive, stemming from the 2015 flood study, continues to evolve, reinforcing the Town's commitment to flood mitigation and resilience.

Committee and Office

The Joint Flood Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the Town of Truro, Municipality of the County of Colchester, Millbrook First Nation, and the Province of Nova Scotia. This committee secures funding through the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. Our Regional Emergency Management Office consists of members from the Town of Truro, the Municipality of the County of Colchester, and the Town of Stewiacke.

Augmenting Emergency Preparedness Measures

The Town is committed to advancing its flood mitigation and emergency preparedness efforts, building upon established best practices. Through updated strategies, we aim to bolster our resilience. While flood mitigation and stormwater management remain paramount, we are expanding our focus to include wildfire response and prevention, power outage contingency plans, and optimizing the timing of emergency first response. These enhancements encompass both operational and capital improvements.

Furthermore, our dedication extends to environmental sustainability and curbing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. As proud members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection Program, we are actively pursuing resources to craft a comprehensive local climate action plan. This plan will incorporate a dedicated component for emergency management.

Enhancing Flood Resilience

Presently, we are actively seeking input from our valued residents regarding the critical issue of flooding. Our online assessment tool has been designed to gather insights into the specific impacts of flooding on individual properties. This valuable data will be instrumental in identifying flood-prone areas and potential emergency hazards within our community. It forms the foundation for our town's comprehensive stormwater management and emergency response planning.

Furthermore, this data will guide us in making informed decisions about investments in stormwater infrastructure. It is an essential step in enhancing our overall emergency preparedness, with a particular emphasis on addressing key areas and neighbourhoods of concern throughout the town. We invite you to participate and contribute to the resilience and safety of our community.

Disaster Preparedness Recommendations

We strongly urge residents and local businesses to proactively adopt measures on their properties to mitigate the effects of disaster events. This encompasses both preparedness and responsive actions. Our Public Works department has engaged in consultations with numerous property owners, offering tailored recommendations for measures that property owners may find beneficial on their respective properties.

Emergency Preparedness in Truro

Over the past 26 years, I have observed substantial dedication and financial investments directed towards mitigating the repercussions of emergency events and enhancing local preparedness. The Town of Truro faced substantial flood occurrences from 2000 to 2013. However, beyond mere chance, we have effectively instituted multiple strategies to fortify our preparedness and minimize the consequences of prospective emergencies.



Colchester Legion Stadium

Unlocking Opportunities: NSFM's New Fund Navigator for Municipal Governments

By Charlene Fekeshazy

Securing funding for critical projects can often feel like an overwhelming endeavor. The multitude of available grants, coupled with their ever-evolving requirements, can easily lead to missed opportunities or poorly prepared applications. In response to invaluable feedback from our members, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) has recognized the pressing need for a dedicated professional to assist with application-based grants. Introducing the Fund Navigator, a specialized role designed to expertly navigate the intricate landscape of grants and funding.

Thanks to generous funding from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, NSFM is delighted to welcome Lucy MacLeod as our new Fund Navigator. Lucy boasts a master's degree in Psychiatry Research from Dalhousie University and has an impressive track record as a published scientific researcher. Her extensive research skills are complemented by her experience in applying for application-based funds, and her adeptness in organizing and disseminating information on multifaceted topics. Prior to her appointment as Fund Navigator, Lucy served as a research assistant at NSFM. As a lifelong resident of Nova Scotia, her dedication to assisting municipalities and their residents runs deep.

In her role as the Fund Navigator, Lucy's mission is clear: identify

funding opportunities, delve into their intricacies, and expertly guide municipalities through the application process. The primary objective is to ensure that municipalities can readily access the resources required to enhance their communities and meet the diverse needs of their residents. Lucy reveals her plan to maintain a vigilant watch over federal, provincial, and private sector grants, stating, "I am in the process of developing a comprehensive database of application-based funding opportunities for a dedicated webpage." This webpage will serve as a valuable resource, ensuring that municipalities are aware of every potential source of funding and can plan their initiatives accordingly.

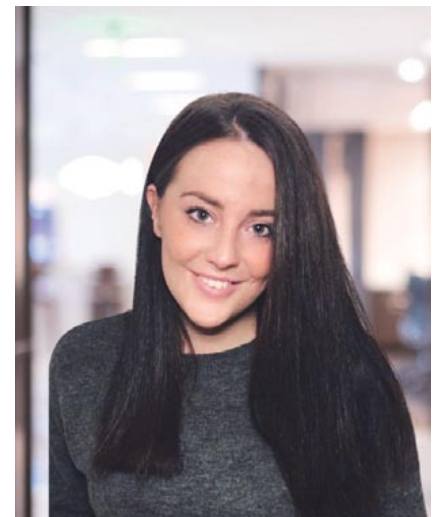
Integral to the Fund Navigator role is Lucy's unwavering commitment to establishing connections with grant providers, government agencies, and other crucial stakeholders. "These relationships provide us with invaluable insights into upcoming opportunities and offer increased support for our grant applications," Lucy explains. Through close collaboration with grant distributors, Lucy aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the expectations and requirements of each grant, significantly enhancing the likelihood of successful applications.

Lucy will continue to collaborate closely with municipal officials and staff to pinpoint the specific needs and priorities of each community.

This alignment ensures that future grant opportunities closely align with the aspirations and goals of our member municipalities. In a time when municipalities across the province are grappling with financial challenges, Lucy's new role as Fund Navigator will be instrumental in helping these communities unlock the funding they need to not only survive but thrive and flourish.

In addition to her responsibilities for NSFM, Lucy is a competitive rower and currently a member of the provincial high performance team for rowing. After paddling and swimming for 20 years, she was recruited to switch to competitive rowing in 2022; her club team is North Star Rowing Club.

On rowing, Lucy says "the most enjoyable aspect is the opportunity to be outdoors on the water everyday. It is a great way to clear your mind and concentrate solely on the flow of the boat. Good days on the water are extremely rewarding. Even on tough days, I cannot wait to get back out there for another chance."



Lucy MacLeod, Fund Navigator



Building Resilience: Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness in Hammonds Plains-St. Margarets with Councillor Pamela Lovelace

By Charlene Fekeshazy

In the realm of crisis management and emergency preparedness, municipal leaders play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their constituents. The district of Hammonds Plains-St. Margarets, nestled in the heart of Nova Scotia, has faced its fair share of challenges, from forest fires to other natural disasters. Here we delve into the state of emergency preparedness, lessons learned from past crises and a vision for a more resilient community.

Collaborative Crisis Management

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and the Province of Nova Scotia have embraced a collaborative approach to emergency preparedness and crisis management. During crises, the municipal and provincial Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) open their doors, bringing together a myriad of emergency personnel, including provincial departments, law enforcement agencies and more. This unified response ensures a coordinated effort in safeguarding the community.

The Evolving Role of a Municipal Councillor

In times of crisis, municipal councillors serve as the vital link between residents and emergency services. They provide crucial information, facilitate access to essential services and address urgent needs within

the community. It is important to act as a public information advisor, ensuring that all residents have access to vital emergency operations information.

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

Councillor Lovelace's background in emergency management and crisis communications has been instrumental in her efforts to enhance emergency preparedness. Notably, she initiated the creation of emergency egress routes to connect communities with limited road access. Additionally, she has championed property tax relief for those affected by disasters and advocated for increased resources for emergency response.

Strengthening Partnerships

Effective crisis response hinges on robust partnerships with local authorities and organizations. Councillor Lovelace has worked diligently to strengthen ties with entities such as Nova Scotia Natural Resources and Renewables, law enforcement agencies, Halifax Search and Rescue and more. These collaborations aim to improve crisis response strategies continually.

Impact on the Community

The devastating effects of recent forest fires and other disasters have left a lasting impact on Hammonds



Plains-St. Margarets. Families who lost their homes and business owners were hit the hardest, facing the daunting task of rebuilding their lives. The community has come together to support one another in the face of adversity, demonstrating resilience and strength.

Lessons Learned from Past Crises

Over the past few decades, the district has weathered numerous crises, including the Swissair 111 crash, hurricanes and wildfires. These unfortunate experiences have enriched the knowledge base of emergency personnel and reinforced the importance of collaboration with all Emergency Management Office (EMO) partners. The community is now better educated on emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, and reducing wildfire risks.

Education and Outreach

To prepare residents and businesses for emergencies, HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia work hand in hand on education and awareness initiatives. After the wildfire, HRM compiled an *After Action Report* detailing emergency operations and responses. Additionally, HRM conducts FireSmart Assessments and public engagement sessions to raise awareness of the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA).

Allocation of Resources

Councillor Lovelace recognizes that change often emerges from crises. HRM allocated resources to construct emergency egress routes in response to the recent wildfire, addressing a long-standing challenge. The newly established Community Safety business unit is committed to enhancing disaster resilience and preparedness in the district.

Overcoming Challenges

Access to telecommunications during disasters remains a significant challenge in Hammonds Plains-St. Margarets; dead zones and limited cell service exacerbate the situation. Addressing this issue is a top priority for rural HRM to improve crisis communications.

Stories of Resilience

The community's unwavering support for one another has beautifully reaffirmed the spirit of resilience, demonstrated through acts of courage and selflessness, such as feeding firefighters and reuniting pets with their owners during crises.

Mental and Emotional Well-being

Recognizing the importance of mental and emotional well-being, Councillor Lovelace advocated for mental health services in the impacted communities after the wildfire. HRM established a community hub, offering residents access to various support services and creating a safe space for discussing mental health during challenging times.

Long-Term Recovery and Rebuilding

After a disaster, the immediate focus is on resource allocation, gap identification and policy changes. Councillor Lovelace's role is to represent the concerns of residents, convey accurate information within the EMO chain and advocate for policy changes that promote resilience and preparedness.

The Road Ahead

Looking ahead, Councillor Lovelace envisions a community that is better prepared and resilient to potential risks and hazards. This includes comprehensive hazard assessments, resiliency planning, and the allocation of resources to enhance crisis response. The goal is to shift from a reactive to a proactive approach, ensuring the safety and well-being of Hammonds Plains-St. Margarets.

As the district continues to learn from past experiences, foster partnerships, and invest in preparedness, the vision of a more resilient district is becoming a reality. Councillor Pamela Lovelace's dedication to crisis management and emergency preparedness serves as a beacon of hope for the community's future.





NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Anticipate the Excitement of NSFM Spring Conference – Save the date!

May 7-10, 2024



Join us for the NSFM Spring Conference, a continuation of our commitment to excellence in municipal leadership – we guarantee a symphony of insights, networking, and inspiration.

Here's what to expect:

Engaging Workshops
Expert Speakers
Networking Opportunities
Cutting-edge Solutions

Blossoming ideas and vibrant discussions will define our Spring Conference.
Stay tuned for more details as we unveil the theme and agenda.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
1809 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS, Canada, B3J 3K8
Phone: (902) 423-8331 | nsfm.ca

How Flood Resilient is Your Community? New Municipal Flood Risk Assessment Framework being developed by Intact Centre

By Melie Monnerat, Project Manager at the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation

Introduction

Flooding has become an escalating concern in numerous Nova Scotian communities, stemming from intense rainstorms, hurricane-related storm surges or overflowing rivers. Municipalities find themselves on the frontlines of adapting to this challenging climate reality. This adaptation involves not only comprehending and mapping flood risks but also implementing effective measures on the ground to mitigate these risks. In this context, data serves as the linchpin for informed decision-making, but practical action is equally indispensable in reducing these risks.

Municipal Flood Risk Assessment Framework: A New Practical Tool

To aid municipalities in tackling flood risk, the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation has embarked on a significant initiative: the development of a user-friendly framework designed to assess municipal flood risk exposure and preparedness. Drawing inspiration from well-recognized national risk assessment approaches, such as CSA W210:21 “Prioritization of Flood Risk in Existing Communities”¹ and ISO 31000 “Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines,”² the team at the Intact Centre is crafting a simplified flood risk assessment tool explicitly tailored to the needs of small and medium-sized Canadian municipalities.

The primary objective is to closely align with the practical challenges faced by smaller municipalities, where staff often juggle multiple responsibilities, balancing various aspects of municipal management with limited human resources, budget constraints and time constraints. With this context in mind, the Municipal Flood Risk Assessment Framework is being developed by municipalities, for municipalities, as an easily accessible support tool. Partners from Atlantic Canada, including the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, are actively collaborating in the development process.

Key Features of the Framework

The framework’s scope extends beyond merely assessing the level of flood exposure arising from rainfall, river, and coastal flooding. It also delves into flood preparedness, emphasizing the importance of not just understanding and mapping flood risks but also implementing measures to mitigate them. The tool will comprise a structured series of questions addressing critical aspects of municipal management, encompassing stormwater management, safeguarding critical infrastructure and supporting vulnerable populations. Qualitative benchmarks will be included to enable users to gauge indicators of flood exposure or preparedness in their community, categorizing them as high, medium or low. The ultimate outcome will be an evaluation that not only identifies existing strengths but also pinpoints key areas for improvement in flood risk management.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the development of the Municipal Flood Risk Assessment Framework is not a mere academic exercise; it is designed to create a practical tool that will assist municipalities in proactively preparing for flooding. The official launch is scheduled for this fall/winter, and *Municipal Observer* will keep you informed on developments. In the meantime, for more details on this project or best practices related to flood preparedness, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Intact Centre via our website (<https://www.intactcentrecclimateadaptation.ca/>).

References

1. Canadian Standards Association (2021). “Prioritization of Flood Risk in Existing Communities (CSA W210:21).” CSA Group.
2. International Organization for Standardization (2018). “Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines (ISO 31000:2018).” ISO.

NSFM's Fall Conference 2023: Raising The Bar On Local Leadership was a great success!

By Charlene Fekeshazy



NSFM's Fall Conference stands as the premiere annual gathering for municipal elected officials in the province, uniting a diverse community. This year's event provided an enriching experience with sessions, discussions, panels and networking opportunities, delving into crucial topics such as the Impact of the Province's Population Growth Strategy, Housing, Diversity and Inclusion, Natural Infrastructure for Municipalities, Emergency Preparedness, and the significant addition of a focused discussion on Policing Matters.

The conference addressed pressing issues surrounding policing, fostering a comprehensive dialogue to enhance community safety and cooperation between municipalities and law enforcement. This strategic inclusion exemplifies NSFM's commitment to tackling the multifaceted challenges faced by local leaders, offering a platform for informed discussions and collaborative solutions. The Fall Conference remains an essential nexus for municipal officials, providing not only a space for learning and networking, but also an

avenue for addressing critical issues that impact communities across the province.

Distinguished keynote speaker David Miller, Managing Director of the C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy and a former Mayor of the City of Toronto, shared insights on "Local Governments Leading the World in Innovation." Premier Tim Houston's unexpected appearance added a touch of distinction, emphasizing the significance of the event.

Notably, the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, provided essential updates, and the Honourable Jill Balser, Minister of Labour, Skills, and Immigration, participated in a panel discussing "The Impact of the Province's Population Growth Strategy."

The Annual General Meeting marked a pivotal moment as Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson was elected to the role of president, accompanied by the acclaimed Vice President, Mayor Sandra Snow of Kentville.

The board welcomes new and returning members, including Deputy Warden James Fuller and Mayor Laurie Boucher from Cape Breton Strait, Councillors Chasidy Veinotte and Maddie Charlton from the South Shore, Councillor Eldon MacDonald from CBRM, Councillor Andy Thompson from Colchester-Cumberland-Pictou-East Hants, Councillors Sam Austin and Paul Russell from HRM, Councillor Belle Hatfield from Southwestern Shore, Paula Huntley from the Valley, and AMANS Representative John MacKinnon from CBRM. Mayor and former President Brenda Chisholm-Beaton will serve the board in the role of past president.

The NSFM Fall Conference 2023 not only served as a platform for learning and networking, but also as a space for the exchange of ideas to foster collaboration and innovation in local leadership.



Carbon Surcharge Fund Award 2023 “West Hants Regional Municipality: Leading the Way in Sustainable Practices”

By Charlene Fekeshazy

In the picturesque landscape of Nova Scotia, the West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM) shines as a beacon of sustainability. WHRM has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 NSFM Carbon Surcharge Fund Award for their outstanding commitment to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices.

A Vision for a Greener Tomorrow

Under the leadership of Mayor Abraham (Abe) Zebian, WHRM has taken extraordinary steps to champion sustainability. This accolade is a testament to their unwavering dedication to a greener and more environmentally conscious Nova Scotia.

The Carbon Surcharge Fund: A Driving Force for Sustainability

The NSFM Carbon Surcharge Fund, established in 2012, has been a driving force behind sustainability initiatives in the region. By implementing a \$5 carbon surcharge on spring and fall conference registration fees, NSFM laid the foundation for change. The surcharge was created with a clear purpose – to support sustainability initiatives and make practices more environmentally friendly.

Empowering Local Sustainability

One of the distinguishing features of the Carbon Surcharge Fund is that all the funds collected are placed

in a dedicated special fund. These funds are then disbursed annually to municipalities, enabling them to undertake local, small-scale sustainability projects. The recommendations from NSFM's Board of Directors ensure that support goes where it is needed most.

WHRM's Sustainability Journey

WHRM's remarkable sustainability journey includes various initiatives, such as reducing carbon emissions, enhancing waste management, and promoting renewable energy sources. Their commitment to making a positive impact on the environment has not only benefited their community but serves as an inspiration to municipalities across Nova Scotia.

A Model for Others to Follow

WHRM's recognition as the 2023 NSFM Carbon Surcharge Fund Award winner is well-deserved. Their innovative sustainability practices set an example for municipalities across the region, showcasing that positive change is not only possible but necessary.

As we applaud WHRM's achievements, we invite all municipalities in Nova Scotia to join this journey toward a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future. By following them, we can collectively create a greener, healthier, and more prosperous Nova Scotia for generations to come.

For more inspiring stories on municipal achievements and sustainability, stay tuned to the *Municipal Observer*.



GO AHEAD! TREAT YOURSELF TO SOMETHING SPECIAL



A PORTRAIT SESSION

with an award-winning, and proudly local photographer is now within reach. Our team is booking portrait sessions in the municipalities of Kings County, Annapolis, and our home of Windsor - West Hants.

Refresh your professional image with a brand new company portrait, a unique profile pic for your social media, or create a lasting memory with family and friends.

We come to you!

RAFAEL ZIAH FRANCO
PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHER
(782) 774 - 9194
hello@ziahfrost.com



Climate Change Leader Award 2023

“A Shining Example of Climate Action: The Climate Change Leaders Award”

By Charlene Fekeshazy

In a world where climate change is a pressing concern, municipalities in Nova Scotia are not only stepping up to the challenge but doing so in innovative and equitable ways. This year’s Climate Change Leaders Award is jointly presented to the Towns of Antigonish (Mayor Laurie Boucher), Berwick (Mayor Don Clarke) and Mahone Bay (Mayor David Devenne). Their efforts to reduce energy costs and environmental impact within municipally owned electric utilities is a testament to their commitment to combatting climate change.



The innovative aspect of this project lies in its approach to addressing equity concerns. Through a unique partnership with AREANS (Annapolis Valley Regional Energy Association of Nova Scotia), these three towns are allowing residents to subscribe to solar power rather than the traditional route of purchasing and installing their own equipment. This forward-thinking approach not only promotes sustainability, but also ensures that all residents have access to the benefits of renewable energy.

The accompanying photos showcase the construction of the Berwick garden. NSFM’s Climate Change Leaders Award program recognizes the outstanding efforts of municipalities in climate change adaptation and

mitigation. With 18 awards given across 13 municipalities since its inception in 2013, it serves as a beacon of inspiration and a platform for sharing innovative ideas throughout the province.

These three towns, Antigonish, Berwick, and Mahone Bay, represent the epitome of what can be achieved when municipalities join hands in the pursuit of a sustainable future. Their collaborative spirit, innovative solutions, and dedication to equity serve as a shining example for us all. They remind us that, indeed, much more can be done, and they inspire us to take action.





Wolfville Readies its Latest Phase of Wastewater Upgrades

The Town of Wolfville is in the process of Phase 2 of its wastewater treatment plant upgrades, following the initial one that began in 2019. As first announced in January 2023, \$6 million in joint funding — \$2.4 million from the Government of Canada, \$2 million from the Government of Nova Scotia and \$1.6 million from the Town itself — is going towards this latest phase.

Phase 1 of Wolfville's wastewater treatment plant upgrades saw

replacement of aging components, improved safety and reduced chlorine residual in effluent — legislative changes made that a time-sensitive endeavour. While the second phase will include improvements to aeration, as well as more control monitoring/automation for increased treatment effectiveness and optimized energy usage, the main improvement relates to increasing the system's volumetric treatment capacity. Throughout this phase, we will also consider storm surge and

flood risk protection among the implemented measures.

September 2023 saw the completion of the conceptual technical design process, with the finer and broader details being worked on ahead of the tender process. The second phase has an expected completion date of no later than March 2025. Future phases will be determined by the success of this one, with area development in the town playing a key role.

ChemFlare™ LEAK-FREE PFA SYSTEM

FOR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE

BEFORE **AFTER**



- Eliminate leaking cemented or threaded connections
- Install ChemFlare™ PFA tubing system for a cost effective leak-free mechanical solution for sodium hypochlorite chemical dosing systems
- Includes tube, fittings and valves in single wall and dual containment configurations; 1/2" to 1"
- Specified by engineers, requested by operators
- For all your Chemline product inquiries, contact us directly to connect you with our maritimes sales partners

CHEMLINE  **PLASTICS**
SUPERIOR FLOW SOLUTIONS

1.800.930.CHEM (2436) | chemline.com | ISO 9001:2015 Certified | 

Put nature to work for your community!

Unlike conventional stormwater basins, naturalized stormwater retention basins are living ecosystems that incorporate biological processes. While providing effective stormwater management, they also deliver many environmental and quality-of-life benefits such as:

- Improved water quality
- Carbon sequestration
- Beautiful places to connect with nature
- Wildlife and biodiversity
- Increased property values

Construction and maintenance costs are also lower than conventional retention basins!



Learn from the leaders

The consulting division of habitat conservation leader Ducks Unlimited Canada is at the forefront of naturalized stormwater system design, construction and management. We use sound science to restore and create sustainable landscapes, and our partner communities have won multiple awards for implementing these innovative solutions. Contact us to learn more about natural infrastructure projects that can enrich your community and improve your bottom line while effectively managing your water.

Professional consulting services offered

- Naturalized stormwater systems
- Habitat offsetting
- Treatment wetland systems
- Remediation and reclamation of altered landscapes
- Native grasslands
- Environmental services
- Green roofs
- Riparian zone restoration
- Performance improvement solutions



ducks.ca/services

Wolfville uses a similar wastewater treatment system to like-sized and located municipalities, a multi-cell aerated lagoon with mechanical screening and UV disinfection. This setup costs less and is easier to maintain than other methods, while meeting legislative directives and providing a worthy and safe treatment of the town's wastewater.

While the balance of form vs. function is an ideal one in builds of any type, it's also a hard one to strike and really, the latter should win if one has to. As Director of Engineering & Public Works Alexander J. de Sousa says, "Lagoons may not be aesthetically pleasing, but they utilize well understood processes found in nature to remove some of the most harmful water-borne contaminants before discharging to the Minas Basin. With proper

monitoring, maintenance, and care, a lagoon system can operate trouble-free within its design parameters for decades with little capital investment, which ours has since the 1970s."

Proper treatment of wastewater is essential to the safety and sustainability of a municipality and its citizens. As said by Mayor Wendy

Donovan during January's funding announcement, "The expansion and upgrading of our wastewater infrastructure is a critical element of the town's growth. Wolfville welcomes visitors, students, and permanent residents from around the country and the world. This is a needed and welcome investment in our future prosperity."



McLennan Sales
emcowaterworks.com

Over 50 years of Servicing
the Maritimes with
Waterworks Supplies &
Experience

Supplier of:
Water & Sewer Pipe & Fittings
Hydrants & Valves
HDPE Corrugated Pipe
Septic Pipe, Fittings &
Accessories
Geotextiles & Waterworks Tools

Dartmouth (902) 468-1500
Saint John (506) 634-3112
Moncton (506) 857-1082

www.EmcoWaterWorks.com



POTABLE WATER & WASTEWATER DIVING SERVICES

POTABLE WATER DIVING SERVICES

- ▶ Dedicated gear
- ▶ Reservoir cleaning
- ▶ Intake inspection
- ▶ Pipe plugging
- ▶ Anode replacement
- ▶ ROV inspections

WASTE WATER DIVING SERVICES

- ▶ Dredging
- ▶ Aerator placement
- ▶ Infrastructure removal
- ▶ Pipe plugging
- ▶ Small boat services

4K  

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR EVERY JOB.

4K Aerial Drone video
When you want to see above & below the surface

Remote Operated Vehicle Underwater video



UNDERWATER VIDEO INSPECTION SURVEYS

CCTV * DRONE * ROV

DEEP DOWN YOU WANT THE BEST



TOLL FREE: 1-877-678-DIVE (3483)

GET TO THE BOTTOM AT
WWW.HUNTLEYSDIVINGANDMARINE.CA

Changing our Response in light of Changing Weather

Providing safe, reliable service to customers amid extreme weather

We understand the impact power outages have on customers. That's why we work throughout the year to continue to strengthen and improve the electricity grid and ensure we're prepared for storms and severe weather. It's a job our team at NS Power takes very seriously.

There's no question our weather is changing. In the last year we've experienced multiple major storms, a hurricane, an extreme cold snap, wildfires, lightning, flooding, and tropical storms. These types of storms prompt the opening of our Emergency Operations Centre. Last year, it was open an unprecedented 43 days, or 12% of the year. This far exceeds any other year on record.

With the extreme weather, we're also seeing more winds over 80km an hour which can cause branches and trees to break and come into contact with the power system causing outages. The average number of hours of wind gusts over 80km an hour in the last five years is up 54% from the five years before that.

We're also seeing a significant increase in lightning. To give you an idea, on average in the month of July there are about 7,000 lightning strikes throughout the province. This year (2023), we have exceeded that average by three times in one lightning storm alone. The severe flooding storm on July 21 was accompanied by about 23,000 lightning strikes in the province in a 24-hour period alone. Lightning carries a massive amount of energy and if electrical equipment is struck, it can be damaged or destroyed and may have to be replaced.

Investing More

As the weather changes, our response has been changing too. We're investing more in the power grid to make it more resilient to the changing weather. In 2023 we're investing over \$200 million across the province on reliability, including investments in more robust equipment, maintenance and tree trimming. We're also hiring more field and support team members to keep pace with the population growth we're seeing in the province.

We clear trees and branches from about 1000km of power line each year and we're increasing our tree trimming investment year over year, nearly doubling it over the next five years. This year (2023) we are investing about \$32 million – that's up from the average of \$20-25 million a year. Next year, it will go up to almost \$45 million. These investments are essential as trees coming into contact with our power lines is the number one reason for outages.

We're also using equipment that's designed to better withstand this severe weather. For example, bigger, stronger poles and more robust insulators designed for equipment exposed in coastal areas, which would also apply to the weather we're seeing with significant storms.

Underground Wires

There are areas where we have many kilometers of underground wires, particularly in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. We always work with municipalities and developers on opportunities where underground powerlines make sense. Underground power lines are a very important part of the infrastructure needed for our province's energy transition. One example of this is the use of underground infrastructure that supports the addition of chargers for electric vehicles to the power grid. Underground power lines can also be more reliable when there are tropical storm winds, but there are some challenges. When outages do occur, they are often hard to find and take longer to repair, especially during significant rainstorms. It's also about 10 times more expensive to install underground lines compared to overhead power lines. As a regulated utility we have to take cost into consideration because the costs of providing electricity service – like installing new power lines – are shared equally among customers across the province. However, underground lines are not impacted by falling trees during storms and we will continue to work with developers and municipalities on opportunities to bury power lines.

Results

These efforts, along with the planning and preparation we do ahead of storms, have helped improve performance for our customers compared to similar storms in the past.

For example, last year, amid the busiest storm season in decades – investments in reliability and strengthening the grid, led to an approximately 15% improvement in both the length and frequency of outages, when compared to 2019 results – post Hurricane Dorian. As the extreme weather becomes more frequent, this work is more important than ever.

More Work Underway

We are always looking for ways to continue to improve reliability of service. Over the last few months, we’ve done some restructuring to put even more of a focus on reliability, with a newly created reliability department. Our Reliability team is responsible for the execution of our work related to reliability and communicating with our customers and stakeholders across the province about their concerns related to the reliability of their power. The team is also very engaged in the development of our strategic plans and how we can best invest capital to improve the reliability of service for our customers.

One area the team will be focused on is improving communications with municipalities and other stakeholders. It’s important our customers are aware of work happening in their community. We know they’re interested, and we want to make it easier for them to get the information they

need. One example of new ways of doing things and sharing information, is with a new Interactive Tree Trimming Map we created on our website. It gives a breakdown, by region, of the tree trimming investments and distance covered. Customers can click on their region to see the average annual investment. The site includes data from 2015-2022 and will be updated annually. Vegetation Management | Nova Scotia Power (nspower.ca)

We are also hiring a reliability advisor for each of the four regions across the province, the West, Metro, the North-east, and Cape Breton. These reliability advisors will be a direct contact for municipal officials and customers to share information, concerns, and learn more about the reliability work being done in their communities. These advisors are expected to be in place by the end of the year (2023). Our customers expect and deserve safe, reliable service and we are committed to providing that, as we continue to look for ways to continue to improve our grid and our engagement with customers.

For more information on our reliability work visit: nspower.ca/reliability.

SARNIA | OAKVILLE | SUDBURY | SAULT STE. MARIE | MONTRÉAL | QUÉBEC | HALIFAX




Instrumentation

Analytical

Valves & Repairs

Technical Services

A valuable resource, a reliable partner!

Tel: (902) 835-9337

info@everestautomation.com

More available at everestautomation.com














Strengthening our electricity system.

We're dedicated to powering your day.

We work throughout the year to continue to strengthen and improve the electricity grid and ensure we're prepared for storms and severe weather. It's a job our team takes very seriously.



Find out more at:
nspower.ca/reliability





2023–2024

CN Winter Plan

Focused on safety, collaboration and transparency to face the challenges of winter, meet customer demand, and keep the Canadian economy moving.

www.cn.ca/winterplan

