



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE ASSET MANAGEMENT COURSES FOR MUNICIPALITIES!

NSFM has developed two online resources to support municipalities in understanding and implementing sound asset management practices, which will help them make informed, proactive infrastructure and budget decisions based on the priorities and needs of their communities.

The screenshot shows a video player interface for the course. On the left is a dark blue sidebar menu with the text: 'Welcome to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' course on asset management. This course is designed to give elected officials basic information about using asset management to improve municipal operations and inform infrastructure and budget decision making. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to: Define asset management and discuss why it is important to your municipality; Describe your role as an elected official in asset management and how to work with municipal Staff in developing strategies and processes; and Describe key steps in asset management planning. We'll discuss three Nova Scotia'. The main content area has a white background with the title 'Welcome to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' Course on Asset Management!' and the same introductory text. Below the text is a list of five course topics: 1. Defining and understanding asset management, 2. The role of Council and Staff in asset management planning, 3. Steps in asset management planning, 4. Local case studies, and 5. Steps for getting started and ways to build success. There is a landscape image of a road by a lake. On the right, a box contains text: 'This initiative is offered through the Municipal Asset Management Program, which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada.' Below this is the FCM Canada logo.

The sole reason municipalities exist is to provide services to residents, such as clean drinking water, safe roads, opportunities for sports and recreation, and countless other benefits that support our quality of life. However, much of our infrastructure needs renewal or replacement, which will increase future costs to municipal budgets. That's why it's important for municipalities to implement asset management practices so they can make effective and informed decisions, manage risks and plan financially for the maintenance, renewal and replacement of their infrastructure.

Municipalities are already practicing components of asset management in their daily operations but having an asset management process in place helps them plan long-term, so residents can have the services they need and have come to enjoy. Smart planning ensures that infrastructure investments are beneficial now and in the future.

To support municipalities with their asset management planning efforts, NSFM has developed the following online courses:

The Basics of Asset Management for Elected Officials to provide elected officials with a simple and clear understanding of asset management and how to use it to inform infrastructure decision making and improve service delivery (cost: \$175.00)

The Data Collection Standard Operating Procedure Guide for Linear Assets to provide an overview to the first set of tools developed through the *Nova Scotia Asset Management Program* by the Province of Nova Scotia for linear data collection (cost: Free)



Learning online about asset management has many benefits and NSFM's courses provide a flexible option for elected officials and municipal staff to learn at their own pace. They can proceed through the material at their leisure, pause at any time, pick up where they left off and review parts of the course already covered. This makes it easy to fit learning into busy schedules from the comfort of home or anywhere Wi-Fi can be accessed. Learning about asset management is as simple as opening your computer or tablet: there is no dress code, it requires no driving, and there is no final exam!

To learn more about these courses, visit NSFM's website (www.nsfm.ca/nsfm-asset-management.html) or contact Debbie Nielsen (dnielsen@nsfm.ca or 902-423-8312).

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