

**TO: Mayors, Wardens, Councillors and CAOs, All Units**

**FR: Amy Pugsley Fraser, Communications Advisor**

**RE: *YOUR MONDAY MEMO***

MONDAY MEMO



*All the NSFM News You Need for the Week*



- It's Conference Evaluation Time!
  - Accessibility Act Update
  - This Week's Media Mentions
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- **We Need Your Feedback**

NSFM conference planners need your input to help plan the next event.

What sessions and presenters did you enjoy from the 2019 fall conference in Halifax? What topics would you like to see covered in upcoming sessions? Let us know so we can serve you better.

Just click on <https://www.nsfmconference.ca/> and access the evaluation form right off the home screen. There are 15 quick questions to answer about specific conference presentations.

## • Accessibility Planning Toolkit

Last week, the Nova Scotia Government announced that municipalities will be prescribed as public sector bodies under the Accessibility Act as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

This means that municipalities must form an accessibility advisory committee and have an accessibility plan in place by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Municipalities can form a joint accessibility advisory committee and develop a joint accessibility plan with prescribed public sector bodies that share similar interests, such as other municipalities in your region.

The Accessibility Directorate has developed resources to assist prescribed public sector bodies to meet the obligations under the Act.

The Accessibility Planning Toolkit for Municipalities is now available at [www.novascotia.ca/accessibility](http://www.novascotia.ca/accessibility)

Interim Accessibility Guidelines for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces, a resource that will assist municipalities and others in auditing the built environment for accessibility, will soon be available on the same website.

In addition, workshops to help municipalities in meeting the accessibility needs of residents were recently delivered throughout the province. The Directorate will continue to provide the support you need throughout this process.

For further information, please contact Joshua Bates, Senior Policy Analyst at 902-424-5311 or [joshua.bates@novascotia.ca](mailto:joshua.bates@novascotia.ca).

## • Media Mentions

Past President and HRM Councillor Wayne Mason represented NSFM at the news conference last week when the government announced that municipalities will be prescribed as public sector bodies under the Accessibility Act.

Several media outlets were there to cover the announcement, including *The Canadian Press*, *CTV News*, and *Global TV*, along with a student reporter from the University of King's College's newspaper *The Signal*.

Here's a link to the story that ran in Halifax Today: <https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/public-bodies-in-nova-scotia-get-one-year-to-develop-accessibility-plans-1897681>

Also last week, *The Chronicle Herald* ran an Op-Ed by NSFM CEO Juanita Spencer titled "A Better Solution to Property Tax Problems."

Here's a link to that piece: <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/opinion/local-perspectives/juanita-spencer-a-better-solution-to-property-tax-problems-383230/>

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*All the NSFM News You Need for the Week*

All the news, notes, messages and reminders from your NSFM Office are in one weekly package.

If you have something to share, please reach out to [communications@nsfm.ca](mailto:communications@nsfm.ca) for a future Monday Memo publication.