

A light blue map of Nova Scotia is centered on the page. The text is overlaid on the map.

What's Happening?

***UNSM Updates
Spring Workshop
2017***

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- A light blue map of Nova Scotia is positioned in the background of the slide, showing the province's coastline and major landmasses.
- Accountability and Transparency (Expense Claims)
 - Fire Study
 - Shift
 - Solid Waste

A light blue map of Nova Scotia is centered on the page. The map shows the coastline and major water bodies. The title "Accountability and Transparency" is overlaid on the map in a dark blue, bold font.

Accountability and Transparency

Joint Committee Report



- Submitted to province March 30, 2017
- Province tabled legislation
- Legislation not passed before House rose.
- Opportunity for councils to take leadership role

Highlights

- Council members, CAOs report travel expenses online quarterly
- Report all expenses, including those paid by administration
 - Purpose of travel
 - Transportation
 - Accommodations
 - Meals
 - incidentals

Highlights con't

- Review expense policy at Council, following municipal election
- No alcohol, except under hospitality policy
- Suggested common expense report format
- Annual expense report

Code of Conduct



- Add compliance with travel policy
- Work underway
 - Consequences if breach code of conduct
 - Processes for council and staff to report complaints
 - Training tools

Strengthen audits

- Include at least one independent person on Audit Committee, if possible
- Audit Committee meet at least twice/year
- Training for Audit Committee members
- Include areas to be addressed in content of municipal audit management letter

A light blue map of Nova Scotia is centered on a textured, light green background. The text "Fire Study" is written in a bold, dark blue font across the middle of the map.

Fire Study

Fire Study



- Fire services long-standing service, many different approaches to service delivery
- Recognized challenges, long standing issues
- UNSM and AMA partnered to hire a consultant, also involved Fire Services Association, Fire Marshall's office, Department of Municipal Affairs

Terms of Reference



- Identify and prioritize key issues in the delivery of fire services
 - Perspective of fire fighters
 - Perspective of municipalities
- Identify possible solutions
- Identify best practices
- Identify possible areas for collaboration

Project Design

- Consultant was asked to facilitate open, frank discussions with representative stakeholder
 - Recommended survey and face-to-face
 - Limited to cross-section, representatives from Fire Services Association, Municipal councils, municipal administrators, Fire Marshall's Office
 - Face-to face meetings

Consultation



- Advance survey top 3 issues
 - Funding
 - Fire service standards
 - Organizational structure
- Consultations began with these three topics, but opportunity provided to raise other issues

Observations



- Great deal of misunderstanding of responsibilities, authorities, issues
- Limited understanding of standards
- Concerns changes will impact funding, volunteerism
- Concerns raised by both the fire services side and the municipal side are presented in the report – there are differences

Conclusions

- Clear information and education required around governance, authorities and responsibilities
- No one organization has full responsibility – need a forum to bring all together.
- No one organization can solve the problems, will take a joint approach
- Funding is a large issue, but there are opportunities to make better use of existing funding.

Next Steps

- Commitment from Steering Committee to work on terms of reference for a joint committee to begin action on the report
- DMA/Fire Marshall's Office hiring a student to inventory existing service, build best practice information on fire co-ordinators
- Information on legislated authorities, responsibilities to be prepared
- Report released end of June, seek committee members

A light blue map of Nova Scotia is centered on the page. The word "SHIFT" is written in bold, dark blue, sans-serif capital letters across the upper portion of the map. Below it, the title "NS Action Plan for Aging Population" is written in the same style, spanning across the middle of the map.

SHIFT

**NS Action Plan for
Aging Population**

Background



- Released end of March, 2017
- Based on Advisory Team, consultation
- Holistic approach, 8 government departments
- Actions, lead departments, timelines

- Renewing the UNSM/Seniors MOU, based on Shift Action Plan

SHIFT Goals

- Value the social and economic contributions of older adults, as entrepreneurs, in the workplace, and volunteering in the community
- Promote healthy, active living (inclusiveness, poverty reduction, physical activity/exercise)
- Support aging in place through community transportation, housing, age-friendly community planning and social connections

Municipalities' Involvement

- Goal- promote healthy active living
- Expand Municipal Physical Activity Leadership program to add older adults as a priority population, and inclusive for diverse adults'
- Consider if recreational strategies can better address needs and perspectives of middle-aged and older adults in all their diversity

Goal – Aging in place

- Community Transit (Culture and Heritage Dept)
 - Strategy
 - Work with insurance re volunteer drivers
- Housing
 - Help adapt homes
 - Support affordable housing for seniors
 - Improve quality of social housing
 - Review Statement of Provincial Interest re municipal planning and zoning, bridge gap

Age-friendly Community Planning

- Include age friendly considerations in municipal planning processes
 - Some funding expected to be available
- Accessibility legislation
- Expand Senior Safety Program to more communities
- Social connections – increase access to facilities and recreation programs, work with libraries for community internet/digital literacy training

A light blue map of Nova Scotia is centered on a textured, light green background. The text "Solid Waste" is written in a bold, dark blue font across the middle of the map.

Solid Waste

Overview



- Led by Solid Waste Chairs
- Review of whole system, first time in 20 years
- Looking to increase efficiencies
- Phase 1 – prepare terms of reference
- Phase 2 – undertake review, include consultation with