



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

# NSFM 2022: PLAN FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

February 2022

**Better government. Stronger communities.**





# AGENDA

1. Purpose of this Presentation
2. Overview of Proposed Changes
3. Brief Explanation of Each Proposed Change
4. Feedback/Questions

# PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- Outlining the organizational changes that are supported by the Board
- Outline the proposed next steps in terms of by-laws and policy changes.

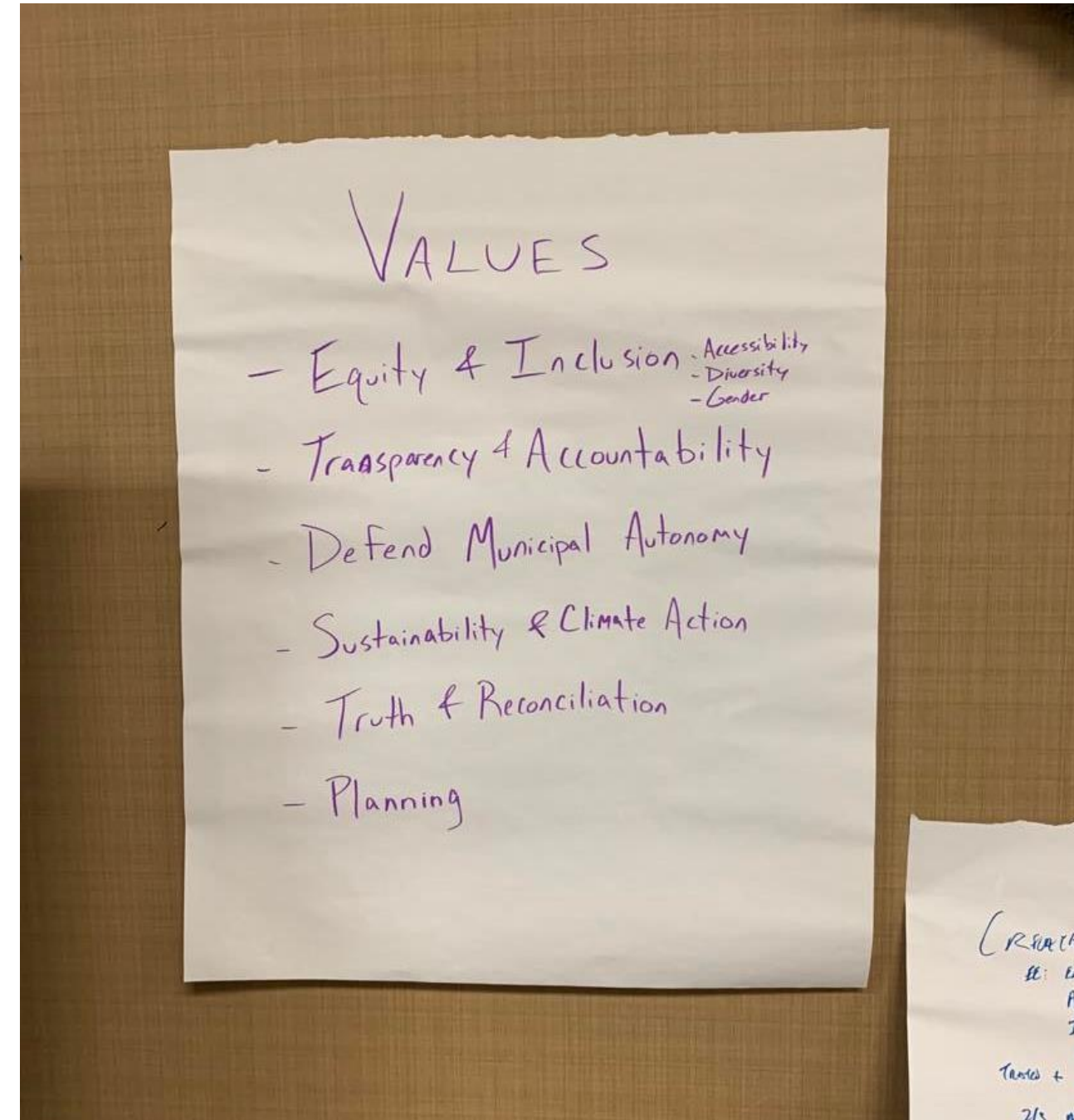
# OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES

1. Guiding Principles
2. Recognition of Municipal Councils as Members
3. Caucuses
4. Creation of Regional Electoral Boundaries
5. Resolutions and Statements of Municipal Interest



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Establish core guiding principles
- Clarify to the membership, the general public, other orders of government, and for internal decisions
- NSFM staff will propose a list of guiding principles



# MUNICIPAL UNITS AS MEMBERS

- Recentering membership engagement on municipal units, as stated in our current by-laws
- Will increase general awareness of NSFM's work
- Will increase consistency and coordination
- A role for individuals to participate in elections will be maintained
- Staff will map out necessary changes and ensure that new procedure is crystal clear



# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Election and Membership Structure



All Members send dues to NSFM

Voting delegates from Municipalities that are able, attend the conference.



A vote is held for the President, Vice-President, Caucus Representatives by those in attendance at the Annual General Meeting.



All Members send dues to NSFM

All Municipal Elected Officials vote in their Member Municipality



Confidential Individual Votes are collected by NSFM

Winners are announced at the Annual General Meeting



# DEPARTURE FROM CAUCUSES

- The more unified we are, the stronger and more effective we become
- Caucuses can create unnecessary divisions rather than collaboration on common concerns
- Will change the composition of the Board of Directors and how members participate in the election of Board positions





# NEW ELECTION PROCESS

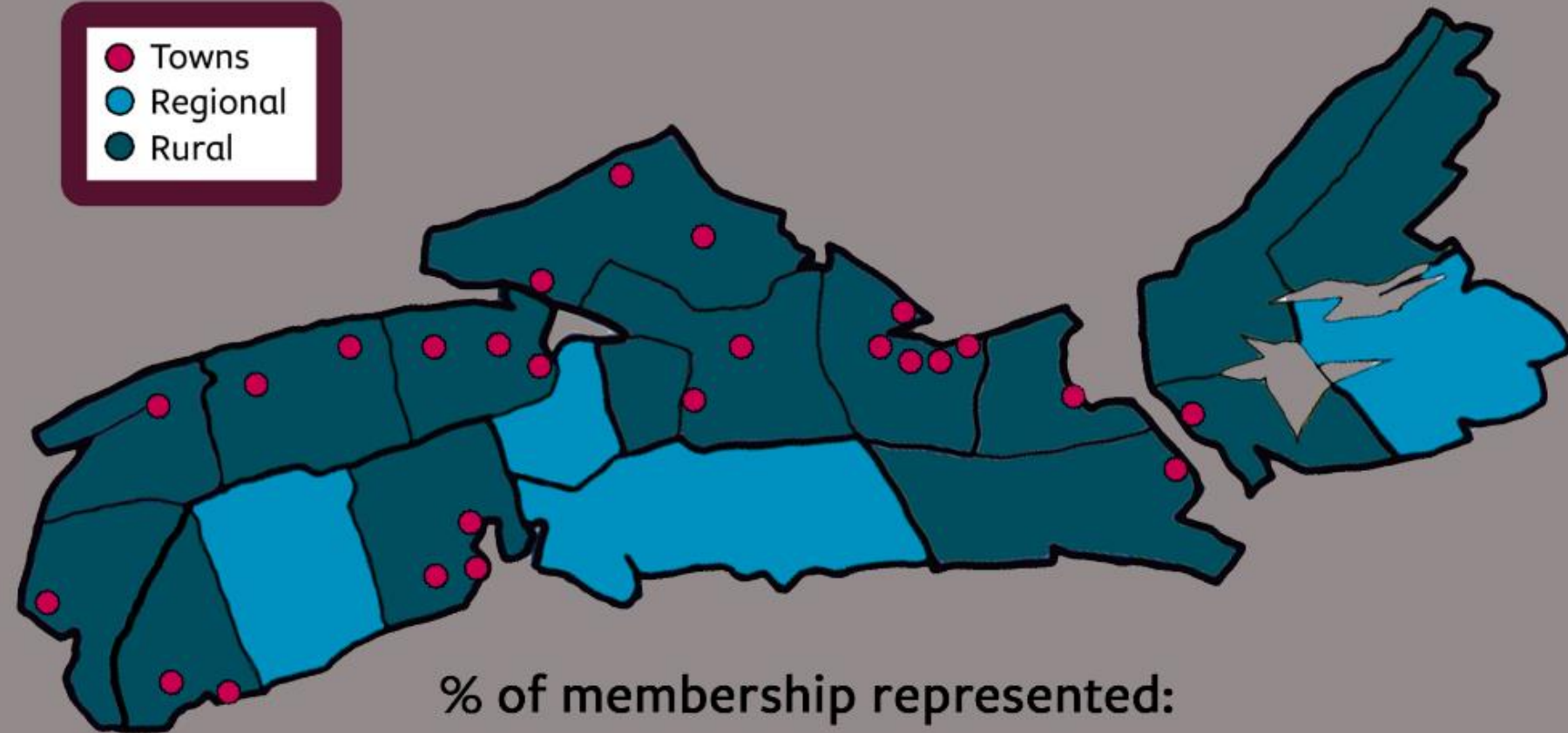
- Regional Groups will replace caucuses as the forums in which members vote for Representatives on the Board
- Ensures representation of NSFM members across Nova Scotia on the Board
- Staff will map out necessary changes to by-laws and policies and develop guides for membership participation



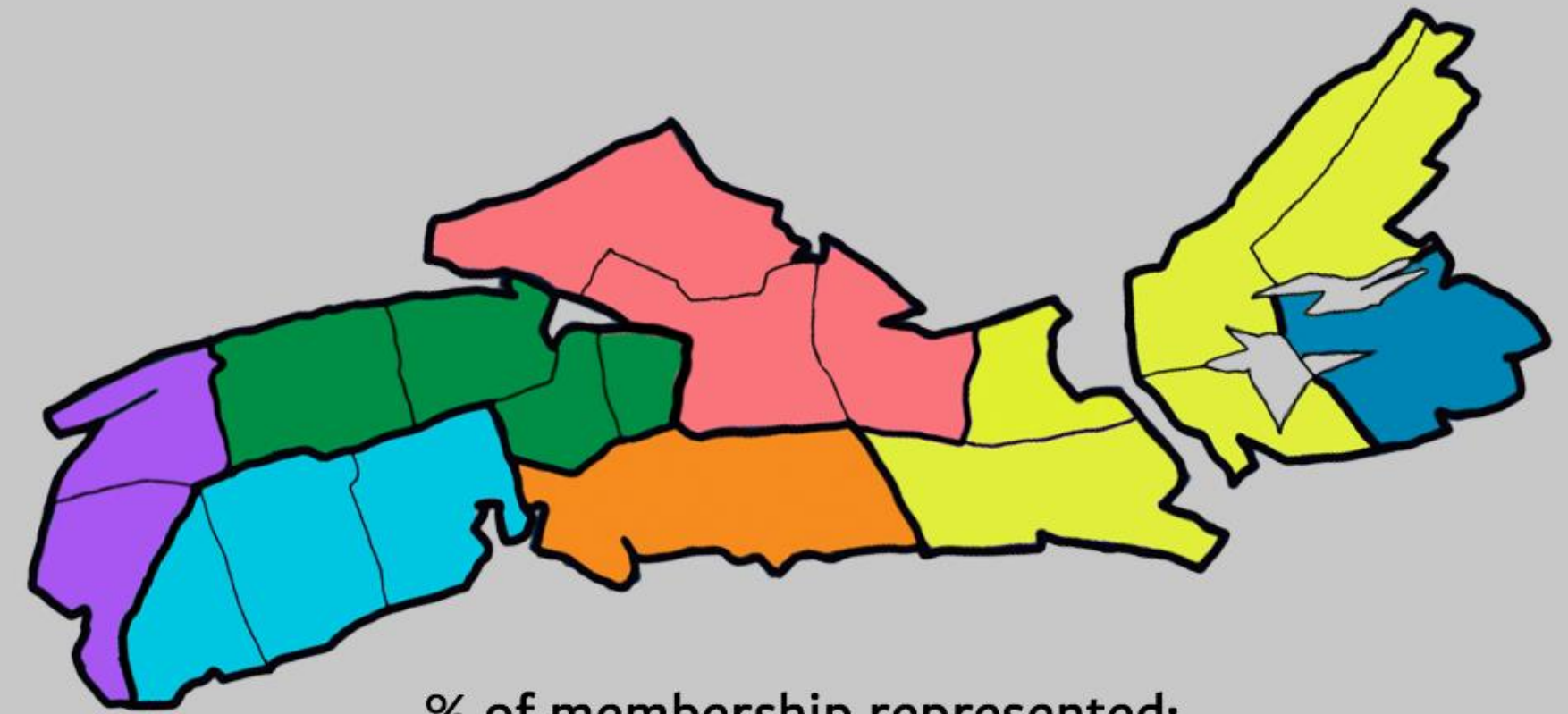
# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Caucus Structure



Regionals (3 seats, 8%)  
Towns (3 seats, 51%)  
Rurals (3 seats, 41%)



Southwestern Shore (8/49 units, 16%)  
CCP (12/49 units, 24%)  
Valley (9/49 units, 18%)  
South Shore (9/49 units, 18%)  
Cape Breton-Strait (9/49 units, 18%)  
HRM (2/49 units, 4%)  
CBRM (1/49 units, 2%)

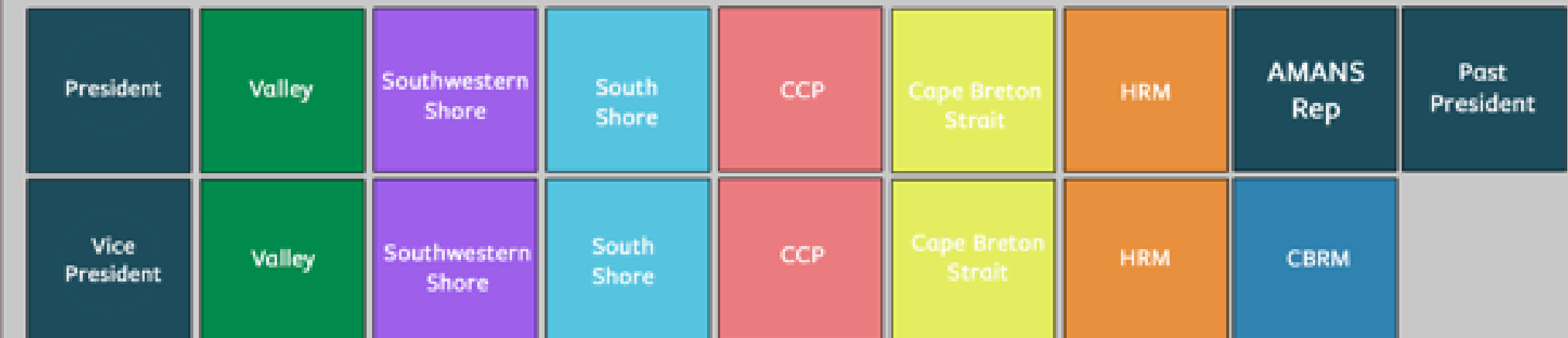
# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Board Layout



**Board Composition:** Election of President and Vice-President currently conducted at-large at annual general meeting.



**Board Composition:** Election of President and Vice-President will be held at-large, based on votes from individual elected officials.



# DEPARTURE FROM RESOLUTIONS

- Need to move on from static priorities and become more agile
- Need to establish priorities in a way that
  - tracks progress on agreed upon priorities
  - gives a mandate to respond to emergent concerns and opportunities
- Resolutions process set to begin in June to establish Resolutions for the next three years
- Resolutions are not working, we need to find another way



# ADVISORY COMMITTEES - STATEMENTS OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST

- Board members will establish areas of general municipal interest and strike advisory committees
- Emergent concerns will also be considered
- Advisory committees will produce Statements of Municipal Interest
- Each governed by Terms of Reference and reviewed at a regular interval
- Advisory Committees will respond to membership requests to investigate an issue
- NSFAM staff will support a sub-committee to devise policy and procedure to enable this new practice





# CURRENT

# PROPOSED

## Determining Advocacy Priorities



Every three years members vote on the top five issues of importance facing Nova Scotia Municipalities



These issues form our Resolutions, which determine the areas of focus for the work of NSFM.



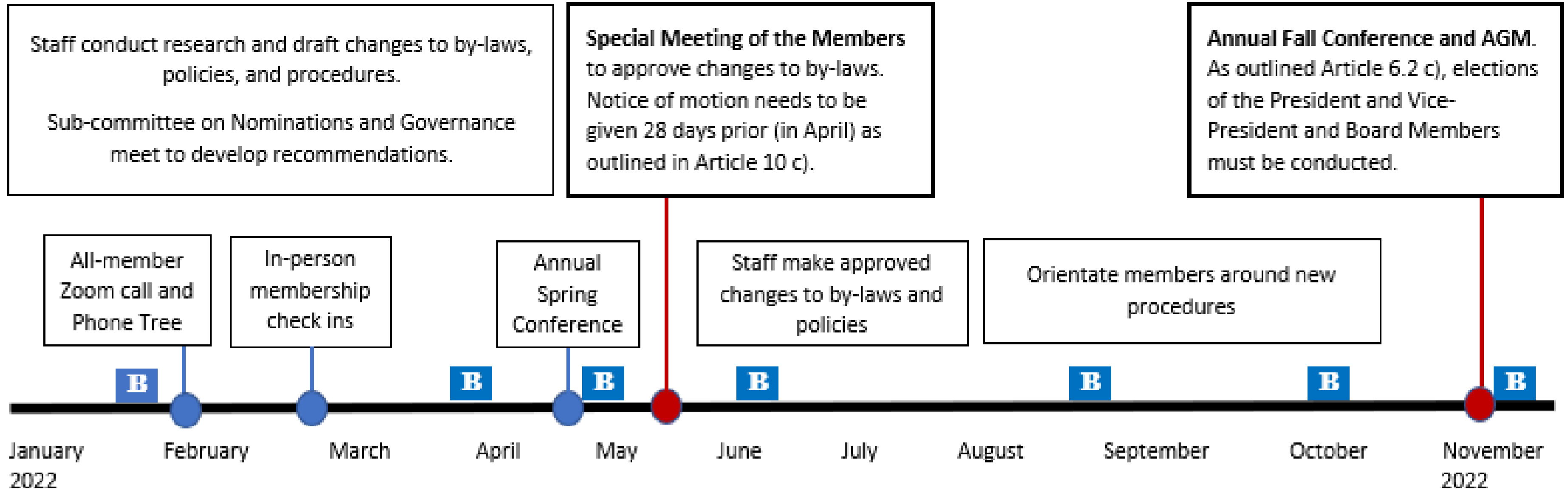
# NEXT STEPS

- Engage with members to explain these proposed changes and get feedback
- NSFAM Staff are directed to review relevant by-laws and policies and prepare motions for a Special Meeting of the Members
- Subcommittee to be struck to develop the plan for advisory committees and Statements of Municipal Interest
- By-law changes must be announced by a Notice of Motion 28 days in advance.



# NSFM 2022 Timeline

**B** = scheduled Board meeting







# QUESTIONS, FEEDBACK, DISCUSSION

This is going to be a big year for all of us.