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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE



STRONGER TOGETHER:
LEADERSHIP, TRUST &
TRANSFORMATION

2026 NSFM CONFERENCE
Nov 3 - 6 · Halifax, NS

The NSFM Conference Nov 3 – 6 at the Westin Hotel in Halifax
(As previously distributed by Direct Mail on July 9)

Book your accommodations now!

The full program and registration will be available when the conference website launches later this summer. In the meantime, here are some key dates to help with accommodations planning:

- **Tuesday, November 3:** possible pre-conference session tbc (3:00–5:00 p.m.); Meet and Greet Reception (7:00 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, November 4:** Conference officially opens in the morning @ 8:30 a.m. - sessions until 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, November 5:** Sessions 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - banquet that evening
- **Friday, November 6:** Conference concludes at noon

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Beyond the Ballot – Rethinking Women's Inclusion in Municipal Politics

Join NSFM on July 16 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for a Lunch and Learn exploring the experiences of women in municipal politics and the factors that influence their decision to remain in or leave elected office. This session will examine barriers and challenges faced by women in local government, their impact on re-election decisions, and potential policies and programs to support greater retention of women in municipal leadership.

Presenter: Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women and Politics and Assistant Professor, Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University

To Register: [Click Here](#).

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

FREE WORKSHOP SERIES: Begins July 21 Land Use Planning, Asset Management & Adaptation

Municipal land use and infrastructure decisions made today can shape costs, risks, and resilience for decades. This three-part workshop series equips CAOs, planners, engineers, and infrastructure staff with practical tools to integrate land use planning, asset management, and climate adaptation into long-term decision-making. Through interactive simulations and hands-on planning exercises, participants will develop a draft municipal planning roadmap tailored to their community. Funded through the Green Municipal Fund and AIM Network sponsors, this workshop series is free to attend.

Workshop Dates: July 21, July 28, and August 6, 2026, from 9–11 a.m. ADT.

Detailed Information and Registration: [Click Here](#)

Survey: Coastal Policy Decision Making Guide

confidence on coastal issues such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. We are seeking your input in a survey that gathers your experience and requirements so the guide is genuinely useful, whether your municipality is just getting started or building on work already underway. There is an option to share your contact details if interested in a follow-up workshop.

- Results will only be reported in aggregate form
- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
- [Access survey here](#)
- Survey deadline: July 31
- More information: coastal@nsfm.ca

Study on Violence and Harassment Against Elected Officials

In partnership with the NSFM, Dr. Rebecca Wallace, Mila Mulroney Research Chair in Women and Politics (St. Francis Xavier University) and her team are studying the experience in municipal officeholding, with a particular focus on the tenure of women in politics. Women politicians are leaving office earlier than men at other levels of Canadian government, but this has not been explored at the municipal level. The research is now entering a new outreach phase in which all elected municipal leaders have been invited, by way of direct message, to participate in a survey on their experiences in elected office. Kindly take the time to complete this important survey.

- More information: rwallace@stfx.ca

NSFM Listserv: Coming Soon...Sign Up Now!

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv designed to connect and support Nova Scotia's broader municipal sector. Participation is **free** and **open** to **municipal leaders and staff** across the province.

The listserv will:

- Support the exchange of information related to municipal practices and procedures
- Encourage collaboration and cooperation among municipal units
- Foster a community of shared interests across the municipal sector
- Provide a forum to share ideas, requests for information, best practices, and knowledge
- Serve as a key communication channel for the municipal sector

Sign up for the listserv [here](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

Indigenous Language Learning Courses

The [Outdoor Learning School & Store](#) is offering two upcoming courses that municipal leaders and staff will find valuable and interesting, especially as many organizations move along a path towards truth and reconciliation.

- September 2026: [Mi'kmaw Introductory Language Course](#)
- Fall 2026: [4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning Course](#)
- More information: info@outdoorlearning.com

NEWS

[Bridgewater, N.S. fire victim remembered as 'ray of light' by co-workers](#)

[Garbage complaints skyrocket in CBRM](#)

[Halifax Regional Municipality appoints new CAO](#)

[Municipalities turn to long-term water security after last summer's drought](#)

[Ombudsman finds Argyle "fulfilled or exceeded" obligations to consult public](#)

[Public Housing to be powered by Queens County wind project](#)

[Strange smell along Sydney Harbour in Cape Breton](#)

[Town of Shelburne CAO provides update on water report](#)

FUNDING

Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The Funding Portal is a joint initiative of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the [Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities](#). Our mission is simple: make finding and applying for grants easy and efficient — so you can focus on building stronger communities. nsfunding.ca.

the Funding Portal or reach out to fundnavigator@nsfm.ca.

Program Update:

[Build Communities Strong, Direct Delivery Stream](#): A new application portal for shovel-ready projects is now open. Eligible infrastructure projects that support stronger communities and are ready to begin construction before the end of 2026 can be submitted by July 15, 2026 (or by August 12, 2026, for Indigenous applicants). Eligible applicants who have a potential project that is not yet shovel-ready may still submit an expression of interest for future consideration.

Funds that are Closing Soon:

[OHPR Community Fund](#): Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment (OHPR) Funding to support community-led projects that recruit, welcome, and retain healthcare professionals in Nova Scotia. Deadline: July 16, 2026

[Broadband Fund - Call 4](#): Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) supports broadband infrastructure projects that improve high-speed Internet access in underserved Canadian communities. Deadline: August 13, 2026

[Local Food Security Initiatives](#): The NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage provides up to \$100,000 in funding to help communities improve food security and ensure access to healthy, culturally appropriate, and locally produced food. Deadline: August 31, 2026

PROGRAMS

Fleet Upfitting

When the going gets tough, count on your fleet vehicles to be tougher. Whether something as simple as truck caps, something complex like hydraulic lifts, something specific like emergency vehicle lights and equipment, or even a completely custom setup, the [NSFM/Canoe Fleet Upfitting Program](#) can help. With products, installation, and service available from some of the best suppliers in the country, solutions for your entire fleet are at your fingertips. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Recreation spaces knit communities together. The [NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply Program](#) can help find quality products and competitive prices for every municipal unit. [Learn how the Town of Huntsville](#) Ontario partnered with Outdoor-Fit to install the area's first outdoor fitness park, leveraging Outdoor-Fit's expertise and playground supply program to move the project forward efficiently, on time, and on budget. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Stay Current with NSFM/Canoe Newsletter

The [NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies Program](#) delivers the latest supplier updates, program spotlights, and event opportunities directly to your inbox. Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep public sector and non-profit organizations informed on developments that save time, stretch budgets, and strengthen communities. [Subscribe to Trader Newsletter here.](#)

HR Spotlight - Why Employees are Taking Quiet Vacations

The concept of work-life balance seems to be taking an unorthodox turn with the rise of “quiet vacationing.” This trend sees employees taking time off without officially requesting leave. What is driving this behaviour, and how can organizations address it? [In this article](#), learn about the reasons why employees might choose to vacation in secret.

[HR Covered](#) is a program partner of NSFM. Reach out to the advisory team if you need more information on this item, as well as many other great HR resources offered at **no-charge** to municipal units in NS. More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

Equipment Breakdown for Municipalities

Municipalities of all sizes rely on critical equipment to deliver essential services. With aging infrastructure, tight budgets, and public safety on the line, having the right coverage is critical. Have you considered [equipment breakdown insurance coverage](#), designed specifically for the public sector and helping municipal units to:

- respond quickly to unexpected equipment failures
- cover costs related to repair, replacement, and recovery
- access expert support to minimize operational disruption

Program. Program information: imorrison@nsfm.ca

Better Together Sweepstakes

Leaders and staff within the broader municipal sector in NS qualify for exclusive discounts on home and auto insurance through the [NSFM Insurance Program](#). Get a quote on car or home insurance, and you could win one of 12 cash prizes of \$1,000. Do not miss your chance to save on insurance and win! BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector.



WEBINARS

Harassment Prevention and Safer Workplaces Together: Regulatory Updates and the Path Ahead

Presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Join us for an update on workplace harassment following the September 1, 2025 implementation of new regulations. Learn about emerging trends, key insights, and progress across Nova Scotia workplaces. This interactive session will also explore what's next for workplace safety and provide an opportunity to share the tools, resources, and supports needed to strengthen harassment prevention across the province.

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Register: [Click Here](#)

Municipal Info Session: Onshore Wind Energy in Nova Scotia

NSFM, in partnership with the Department of Energy, is hosting a session for municipalities on onshore wind energy in Nova Scotia. The webinar will cover wind procurement, project development, legislation, and how projects interact with municipal governments. The Department of Energy will also speak to the 2026 Green Choice Wind Energy Procurement, including the Request for Proposals and project selection process.

Event Details

Date: July 15

Time: 11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Register: [here](#)

Climate Adaptation Webinars for Municipal Staff

The University of Waterloo's Climate Institute is offering two free webinars this July for municipal staff and elected officials. Topics include accounting and finance, health and well-being, nature-based solutions, engineering, governance, and planning to support local climate resilience.

Event Details

Date/Time #1: July 15 | 1–2 p.m. (EST)

Date/Time #2: July 21 | 1–2 p.m. (EST)

Learn More & Register: [here](#)

Recap: Assistance Program for Elected Officials

Did you miss the recent webinar presented by NSFM and AMANS on the **Assistance Program for Elected Officials**? The webinar discussed how to access and navigate the programs and services offered and provided an overview of the new website and app. The program features an extensive number of tools and resources of benefit to elected leaders. You can view the webinar [here](#).

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

[Spring/Summer Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for the **Atlantic Region of Municipalities**



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