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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS AWARD

2026 NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award



Towns of Antigonish, Berwick, and Mahone Bay - Solar Garden - 2023 Climate Change Leaders Award Winner



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Applications Now Open: NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award

Applications are now open for the 2026 NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award.

Presented annually at NSFM's Fall Conference, the award recognizes municipalities that have demonstrated leadership in climate change adaptation and/or mitigation through innovative initiatives, collaborative efforts, and community involvement. The program celebrates municipal achievements, encourages continued climate action, and supports the implementation of Municipal Climate Change Action Plans while promoting knowledge sharing across Nova Scotia.

Application resources, including the Application Guidelines, Evaluation Criteria, Application Form, and a list of past recipients, are available on the NSFM website.

To learn more and apply: [Click Here](#)

Using the Sustainable Development Goals to Advance Local Priorities

Presented by Local Futures

Join NSFM for a Lunch & Learn with Jon Beale, Director of Local Futures, on how municipalities can use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support local planning, decision-making, and community priorities. This session will explore practical ways to “localize” the SDGs and integrate them into governance, planning, budgeting, and program implementation.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click here](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Coastal Decision-Making Guide survey — open until August 15

There's still time to weigh in. NSFM has extended the deadline for its survey on coastal decision-making to August 15.

The survey is shaping a plain-language guide and checklist to help councils and staff move forward on flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. What we hear from municipalities determines how the guide is structured and which topics it covers in depth.

Whether your municipality is just getting started or already well into this work, your experience is useful. It takes about 10–15 minutes, and more than one person per municipality can respond, including planners, CAOs, public works, and councillors.

Take the [Survey](#) | Questions: coastal@nsfm.ca

The [Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick](#) and [Association Francophone des Municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick](#) have issued the report [Respect in Action](#), which calls for more civility in local government. The report was commissioned with the support of the Province of NB. The report provides options and strategies to address the growing number of instances of intimidation at the council table and in the community.

Committee Membership Needed

The **Audit & Finance Committee** is seeking one elected official with accounting expertise to serve on the Committee. This Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility by providing oversight regarding the integrity of financial reporting.

- Two-year term
- Committee meets five times a year
- All meetings are virtual

Have an interest in this Committee? Please forward your name and a background brief to imorrison@nsfm.ca Deadline: August 7

NSFM Employment Opportunity

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is hiring. Please see below for the following job opportunity. Kindly circulate this posting in your networks.

- Position: Municipal Wellness Program Coordinator
- Posting Detail: [Click here](#)

Municipal Wellness Program Update

The [Municipal Wellness Program](#) was established in 2014 and encourages Nova Scotia municipal units to create healthy workplace environments and promote positive health and wellbeing for all municipal employees and elected officials. AMANS and NSFM continue to meet to transition the operation of the program from AMANS to NSFM at the end of November 2026.

NSFM has posted for the position of Municipal Wellness Program Coordinator, a role planned to be filled in October. NSFM is committed to the program and its importance and will work to ensure a successful program for the benefit of the entire municipal sector. Updates on the transition process will be provided periodically.

Introducing Municipal Exchange: NSFM Listserv: Coming Soon...Sign Up Now!

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv. **Municipal Exchange** is designed as a shared space for municipal news, resources, and discussion 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
- Share relevant NSFM news, programs, services, and professional development opportunities

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

NEWS

[‘It’s embarrassing’: Halifax postpones transit fare hike to Dec. amid tap-to-pay delay](#)

[5 Nova Scotia libraries slated for closure will stay open until end of September](#)

[Concrete poured at Graves Arena](#)

[A social media policy for governments and constituents](#)

[Halifax utility proposes 650% hike to water connection fee for new construction](#)

[Harnessing the Power of the Sun to Empower Youth](#)

[MODL District 9 councillor resigns, says system is ‘fundamentally broken’](#)

[N.S. premier’s encounter with protesters reflects toxic political climate: experts](#)

[Nova Scotia to spend \\$16 million more this year to hire 25 RCMP officers](#)

[Section of College Street in Liverpool becomes one-way](#)

FUNDING

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.

New opportunities added to the portal this week:

[Resilient Communities Through FireSmart \(RCF\)](#): Department of Natural Resources Funding for municipal wildfire prevention, mitigation, and FireSmart initiatives that strengthen community resilience. Deadline for proposals: August 28, 2026

PROGRAMS

Flood Recovery Solutions

Recent flooding events have created an urgent need for road repairs, washout remediation, drainage upgrades, and bridge replacement projects. [NSFM/Canoe Procurement](#)-approved supplier, [Armtec](#), helps municipalities and public-sector organizations access critical infrastructure products quickly and efficiently. Learn more about how to [expedite emergency infrastructure repairs with Armtec](#).

Staples Professional: Office Supply

As a partner of the [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Group](#), Staples Professional is proud to support NSFM members. Staples Professional presents a better way to manage your whole workplace. Learn more about providing [feminine hygiene solutions](#) for the workplace. More info: brenda.mcquinn@staples.ca.

Flooring

The [NSFM/Canoe Flooring Program](#) works with suppliers to help you find the best options for each of your spaces: rugs, carpet tiles, luxury vinyl flooring, and more. With preferred pricing and the tendering process already completed on your behalf, you just need to pick your design. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

HR Spotlight

employers have a duty to investigate discrimination complaints promptly and thoroughly. An employee raised concerns about workplace racism and requested an investigation before being terminated during his probationary period. The Tribunal found that the employer's failure to meaningfully investigate the allegations contributed to a finding of discrimination under the *Human Rights Code*. A probationary period does not exempt employers from their duty to investigate human rights complaints. Ensure all discrimination and harassment complaints are investigated promptly, documented thoroughly, and resolved in good faith, regardless of the employee's tenure.

[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@hrccovered.com

Protecting Your Personal Data

Phishing scams are becoming an everyday concern for many Canadians. Phishing is a common tactic that cyber criminals use to steal personal and financial information. Phishing messages usually take the form of an email, text message, or phone call from a cybercriminal who is pretending to be someone they are not. [Learn more about protecting your data.](#)

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on your **personal home and auto insurance** through BrokerLink's [group insurance program](#)? BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector. Their dedicated group of insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value.

BrokerLink
Insurance insights
Your trusted group partner

The logo for BrokerLink Insurance features a stylized 'B' composed of two overlapping squares, one yellow and one blue, positioned above the text 'BrokerLink' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'Insurance' in a smaller, blue font below it.

Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

NSFM and [Canoe Procurement Group](#) are hosting a one-hour webinar outlining how the program works, how to access and maximize your participation in the program. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, gain insight, and better understand how this procurement option can support your municipal unit and augment your other procurement activities. The webinar will be of interest to anyone in your organization affiliated with the procurement process.

- Wednesday August 12 @ 1:30 pm
- Hosts: Sarah Hubble & Stephanie Morris, Canoe Procurement
- [Register here](#)
- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca

Unable to attend? Please send a designate or register and we will send to you a recording of the event.



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

Presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills, & 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](#)

Recap: How Can Municipalities Better Prepare for Extreme Weather

Kathryn Bakos, [Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#) explains how municipalities can better plan ahead of severe weather. Drawing on research that includes Ottawa's 2017 and 2019 floods, she discusses the importance of proactive climate adaptation and resilience planning. [Listen to the interview.](#)

The Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation is an education partner of the NSFM Municipal Insurance Program.

RESOURCES

[Summer Municipal Observer](#)

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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