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# Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

## MUNICIPAL CONSULTATIONS

### **Mandatory Orientation Training for Newly Elected Councillors**

NSFM is consulting with members on the development of new requirements for municipal orientation training for newly elected councillors.

These consultations will help identify current municipal orientation practices, opportunities and barriers, and inform an orientation framework that is accessible, equitable and realistic for municipalities and newly elected councillors.

Seven consultation sessions will be held across the province throughout October, including in-person sessions in Bridgewater, Truro, Wolfville, Port Hawkesbury and Yarmouth, as well as two virtual sessions.

**Members are encouraged to register for the session that best fits their schedule and region. [View the consultation details and register](#)**

## 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

### **Nominations Open for the 2026 Board of Directors Election**

**The 2026 Nominations Committee** is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

3. Regional Representatives for each NSFM Electoral Region (except CBRM)

**The nomination deadline is October 2.**

Visit the NSFM website for full election details, including nomination information and Board member resources. [Click Here](#)

**Learn More About the NSFM Board**

Interested in learning more about the role of the NSFM Board of Directors? Current Board member Belle Hatfield shares her experience and highlights the important work of the Board in helping shape the future of Nova Scotia’s municipalities. [Watch her video to learn more.](#)

Several current Board members will also share why they chose to run for the NSFM Board. David Mitchell, NSFM President and Mayor, Town of Bridgewater, shares: “I decided to run for the board because I believe in the potential of the NSFM and was, and still am, excited by what we can do together.”

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY**

**BCSF Community stream Spotlight**

With the BCSF Community stream Rural Broadband project in the Municipality of the District of Digby, the communities of Doucetteville, Conway, and Smith’s Cove have joined the rest of the district in being able to work, bank, and connect with modern speed and reliability.

Thanks to the Rural Broadband project led by the municipalities and the Western REN, the Digby area is one of the best places to live and work remotely. Read more here: [BCSF Community stream Spotlight - Municipality of the District of Digby: Rural Broadband & Cellular](#)

**Art of City Building Conference 2026 | Year 10**

includes two days of programming across four themes: The Climate Generation, Councils & Crossroads, Who Builds Tomorrow, and Impact Circle, alongside keynote and panel speakers from across the sector. Registrants will also have access to breakout sessions on housing, community, and more.

- September 11: Halifax Central Library
- September 12: Christ Church Hall, Dartmouth
- Both days: 9:30 am-4:30 pm
- Conference & Registration Information [here](#)
- Questions: [artofcitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:artofcitybuilding@gmail.com)



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## Canoe Wins 2026 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement

[Canoe Procurement](#), partner of NSFM to deliver procurement solutions to municipal units, has been named a recipient of the 2026 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award from the [National Procurement Institute](#) (NPI). Canoe is the

first Canadian group procurement organization to earn this recognition. For Canoe, this recognition reflects the work the team does every day to deliver innovative procurement solutions to our members, including those in Nova Scotia.

## Prevention Academy

[Strong Cities Network](#) is a global network of municipalities committed to addressing all forms of hate, extremism, and polarization. In 2025, [Prevention Academy Canada](#) was launched. The purpose of this initiative is to address national and global issues that have put considerable strain on Canadian municipalities and local officials facing rising levels of hate, discrimination, division, and social polarization in their communities. The following elected leaders are participating in Cohort #2, which has recently launched:

- Councillor Christina Sappington, Municipality of the County of Kings
- Councillor Danielle Fraser, Town of Westville
- Councillor Katherine McCarron, Town of Mahone Bay
- Mayor Amery Boyer, Town of Annapolis Royal
- View the [Prevention Academy Video](#)

## Restoring Civility to Municipal Politics

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.

## 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](#)

## 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

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](#).

## LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

### 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](#)

## NEWS

[Amherst YMCA housing development appealed](#)

[Audit of Halifax mayor's expenses prompts council to seek broader reform plan](#)

[National Acadian Day at L'Acadie de Chezzetcook](#)  
[Remembering 71 years of the Canso Causeway](#)  
[Tidal Transit gets funding to buy new buses](#)  
[Truro family pushes back on proposed development next door](#)

## 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](#).

[Emergency Services Provider Fund - Regional Funding](#): NS Department of Emergency Management fund supporting regional projects that strengthen emergency preparedness, response, and recovery through coordinated efforts among first-responder organizations and municipalities.

**Deadline:** October 31, 2026

## PROGRAMS

### Assistance Program for Elected Officials

While we often have the skills to manage our daily lives, unexpected challenges can arise that require additional support. Do you know that NSFM offers an **Assistance Program** that elected leaders can access? The program is provided by NSFM through a partnership with Telus Health. The service is voluntary, confidential, and available 24/7

- There is no cost to use the program
- Services are offered in both official languages (French and English)
- Available for use by elected leaders, their spouse/common-law partner, dependents living within the same household, and children away from home

## NSFM/Canoe Updated Supplier List: August 2026

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the [August Supplier Update](#). This month's awards span:

- Winter Maintenance Equipment
- Sweeper & Vacuum Equipment
- Firefighting Apparatus
- Playground Supply, and more

Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## Fireproof Your Organization

Discover how the [NSFM/Canoe Firefighting Equipment Program](#), [Firefighting PPE Program](#), and [Firefighting Apparatus Program](#) equip your emergency responders with the best tools and gear to keep your community safe. Whether essential firefighting equipment like emergency lights, sirens, ladders, pumps, power tools, and bush trucks, or protective gear including bunker gear, gas masks, SCBA, helmets, boots, and gloves, the program ensures your team is prepared for every challenge. The programs provides reliable, high-performance equipment with a simplified procurement process and competitive rates. Explore these programs and keep your community fire-ready. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

## HR Spotlight

### Guidance on What Makes a Workplace Investigation "Appropriate"

In Ontario, the Labour Relations Board issued detailed guidance on what constitutes an "appropriate" workplace harassment investigation under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. In its [decision](#), the Board found the employer's investigation was inadequate. The investigator lacked independence, the process was not timely, and findings were not properly communicated to the complainant. The Board confirmed that employers have a positive duty to ensure investigations are conducted properly, not merely initiated. Municipal units are reminded to ensure internal investigators are

trained on the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, your harassment policy, and investigative procedures. Investigations must consider the rights of both the

complainant and respondent.

[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](mailto:partnerships@hrccovered.com)

## Does Your Insurance Cover Off Roothing?

Have you ever taken your truck off-road and wondered whether your [car insurance](#) policy will cover the damage if things go wrong? Learn more about [off-road vehicle insurance](#).

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.

## WEBINARS

### Recap: Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

NSFM and [Canoe Procurement Group](#) recently hosted a half hour webinar outlining how the program works and how to access and maximize participation in the program. This short webinar is a great opportunity to gain insight and better understand how this procurement option can support your municipal unit and augment your other procurement activities. The recording will be of interest to anyone in your organization affiliated with the procurement process. Missed the webinar? Access the recording [here](#).

## RESOURCES

### [Summer Municipal Observer](#)

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

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



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