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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 SPRING CONFERENCE

That's a Wrap on
NSFM's Spring Conference 2026!

A sincere thank you to all delegates, speakers, sponsors,
and partners who contributed to a highly successful
conference in Yarmouth.



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A sincere thank you to all delegates, speakers, sponsors, and partners who contributed to a highly successful conference in Yarmouth.

Your participation, insights, and collaboration continue to strengthen municipal leadership and advance shared priorities across Nova Scotia.

We look forward to seeing you next year. 🙌

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

NSFM is pleased to advise that the [Strong Cities Network](#), in collaboration with the [Canadian Centre for Safer Communities](#) and the [Foundation for a Path Forward](#), and with funding support from Public Safety Canada, is launching **Prevention Academy Cohort #2** for Canadian municipalities. Municipalities from NSFM have been invited to participate in this learning opportunity and we are seeking five elected municipal leaders to enroll. Learn more about the program by viewing the [Prevention Academy Video](#).

- NSFM Board will appoint five elected leaders to participate
- Timeframe: June 2026 – March 2027
- Time commitment: 1.5 hours at least twice a month
- Deadline to apply: May 29
- More info: [click here](#)
- To apply: imorrison@nsfm.ca

Spring Economic Update

The Government of Canada released the [2026 Spring Economic Update](#) on April 28, an important snapshot of federal progress one year after the last federal election and roughly six months after Budget 2025. Please refer to the response from the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) (FCM). FCM has delivered its response in this [news release](#) and on [social media](#).

News Articles:

- [PM Carney spending billions to train more workers, deficit decline short-lived](#)
- [Liberals plan to spend billions on skilled trades in economic update](#)

NEWS

[Amherst mayor says town looking into stopping N.B. toll highway](#)

[Barrington fire departments get new 'Structural Protection Unit'](#)

[Bridgewater police say lessons learned after social post caused 'unnecessary' worry](#)

[Deputy chides CBRM mayor over communication on wharf property sale](#)

[East Hants bulk water deliverers say rate hike will affect customers](#)

[Federal funding to support municipal electric utilities across the Maritimes](#)

[New videos featured on 'Acadian Shores Interpretive Tour'](#)[NS man who challenged woods ban says court ruling win for rights and freedoms](#)[NS mayors address crime concerns after Amherst fatal shooting](#)[NS municipalities support anti-poverty group's call for higher social assistance rates](#)[Province to use Expropriations Act for Mill Cove ferry land](#)[Shelburne mayor says delays creating financial hardships for town](#)[Truro mayor says transit link to Halifax would open doors and economy](#)[Turf field damaged in Town of Antigonish](#)

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.

PROGRAMS

Job Order Contracting

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members, including [Gordian](#), an approved program supplier. Job Order Contracting (JOC) is one of the most efficient ways to deliver multiple construction projects under a single contract, saving time, reducing administrative burden and ensuring compliance. The success of any JOC program ultimately depends on one critical element: The Unit Price Book (UPB). Top-performing JOC programs all follow this best practice: Using a procurement-specific Unit Price Book instead of generic estimating data. [Read how we break down exactly why a purpose-built UPB matters](#) and what it should include. Using the right UPB leads to

Measuring Sludge

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members, including [Hydrasurvey Ltd.](#) The services they offer include sludge measurement, specializing in high accuracy, third-party bathymetric surveys for wastewater, stormwater, raw water, and industrial ponds. Municipal units can easily access their [full suite of services](#), including sludge sampling and composition analysis to ensure disposal compliance, as well as the establishment of baselines for bioaugmentation monitoring and dredging verification.

Sports Arena Supply

Arenas are the hub of athletic and cultural participation in our communities, but require a wide range of outfitting and maintenance considerations. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Sports Arena Supply Program](#), municipal units get access to supplies and services from the experts specifically for sporting facilities for flooring, ice conditioning, safety, inspections, and more. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

New EI Appeals Process Aims to Speed Up Disputes

Starting April 1 the federal government is launching a new [Employment Insurance \(EI\) Board of Appeal](#), replacing the current first-level appeals process. The new system will use regionally based panels that include employer and worker representatives, with a focus on faster, more practical decision-making. For employers, this could mean quicker resolutions for disputes related to terminations, leaves, and Records of Employment (ROEs), along with a more streamlined appeal process. The changes also remove an extra step in second-level appeals, making the system more accessible and efficient overall

[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

Does Home Insurance Cover Plumbing Issues?

damage? If you find a burst pipe or water damage in your home, does homeowners insurance cover it? [It depends on the cause.](#)

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.



**Better
TOGETHER
Sweepstakes**

Exclusive discounts on home and auto insurance. Get a quote and you could **win 1 of 12 cash prizes of \$1,000.**

[See details](#) ▶

BrokerLink
Insurance

Park'N Fly Discount

The [NSFM/Park'N Fly Discount Program](#) is available for elected municipal leaders and municipal staff within the broader municipal sector. Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. Did you know that **Park'N Fly offers a discount of up to 20% on airport parking and if you use the discount code, parking is 40% cheaper than parking in the airport lot.**

WEBINARS

Mental Health in Municipal Leadership - Webinar Series

health and wellbeing for all municipal employees and elected officials. Join us during **Mental Health Awareness Month** for an engaging series of one-hour webinars focused on mental health in municipal leadership.

- May 6, May 13, May 20 @ 11:00 am
- [Session Website](#)
- [Register here](#)
- More info: spellerin@amans.ca

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

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

[Fall/Winter Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

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



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