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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Building Stronger Communities: Fall/Winter 2026 Edition

The Fall/Winter 2026 edition of *Atlantic Municipal Magazine* is now available, featuring stories, insights and perspectives from across Atlantic Canada's municipal landscape. Explore the issues shaping local government, the innovative work happening in communities, and the people helping build stronger municipalities across the region. [Read the full edition](#)

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE



LEADERSHIP, TRUST & TRANSFORMATION

2026 NSFM CONFERENCE

Nov 3 - 6 • Halifax, NS

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PROGRAM & REGISTER](#)

The full program and registration details are found on the conference site.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE ENDS ON OCTOBER 5!

This year's concurrent sessions offer municipal leaders practical tools and fresh perspectives on some of today's most pressing challenges, from building community support for climate action and managing difficult public meetings to creating more inclusive and accessible municipal governance.

Engaging Communities in Climate Action: Building Buy-in and Overcoming Resistance

Climate action starts with community support. This interactive session will equip municipal leaders with practical tools for addressing skepticism, fostering trust, and engaging residents in meaningful conversations about climate initiatives. Participants will leave with strategies to build stronger community buy-in and confidence in leading climate-related discussions.

Keeping Meetings Safe and Civil: Security Protocols and Managing Disruptive Behaviour

As public engagement grows, so does the need to ensure meetings remain safe, productive, and respectful. Learn proven approaches to facility security, managing disruptive behaviour, and maintaining order during challenging public discussions, while preserving transparency and open government principles.

Governing for Everyone: From the EDIA to the Practical

hands-on session will help participants identify actionable approaches to fostering more inclusive governance, stronger community engagement, and better outcomes for all residents.

Don't miss out — register today.

Presenting Sponsor:



Premier Sponsors:



CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS AWARD

Is your municipality leading the way on climate action? **Apply by September 30, 2026**, for the **NSFM Climate Change Leaders Award**.

Presented at NSFM's Fall Conference, the award recognizes municipalities demonstrating leadership in climate change adaptation and/or mitigation through innovative initiatives, collaboration, and community involvement.

Application Guidelines, Evaluation Criteria, Application Form, and past recipients are available on the NSFM website.

Learn more and apply: [Click Here](#)

EDUCATION - NEW SERIES

Natural Resources & Energy Education Series

NSFM is pleased to introduce this new series of online sessions designed to create opportunities for municipalities to connect with provincial departments and other partners working in Nova Scotia's energy and natural resources sectors. **Upcoming sessions:**

- **Mining in Nova Scotia:** [September 28](#), 12:00-1:30 PM
- **Introduction to the IESO Nova Scotia:** [October 1](#), 12:00-1:00 PM
- **Critical and Strategic Minerals Atlas Tutorial:** [October 19](#) or [October 28](#), 12:00-12:45 PM

Additional sessions will be announced as details are confirmed.

Learn more and register: [Natural Resources & Energy Education Series](#)

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:

1. President
2. Vice President
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. Christina Sappington, Councillor, Municipality of the County of Kings, shares: *"I greatly appreciated the insight of seasoned elected officials, while offering my perspective of a brand new politician. Diverse views help guide NSFM's mission."*

Municipal Awareness Week

November 1–7 has been proclaimed Municipal Awareness Week in Nova Scotia. Resolution No. 589, designating the week, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on September 17. NSFM is encouraging municipalities and residents to celebrate by recognizing local leaders and staff, sharing community success stories and memories, and highlighting initiatives that are making a difference in communities across the province. Follow NSFM's social channels throughout Municipal Awareness Week to learn, celebrate and share what's happening in your community.

Apply for the Ken Simpson Memorial Conference Fund

NSFM is pleased to offer the Ken Simpson Memorial Conference Fund, supporting elected officials facing financial or other barriers to attending NSFM's Annual Fall Conference. Two elected officials will receive **complimentary conference registration and a \$500 travel allowance**.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to municipal leadership and professional development, as well as how conference participation will benefit their municipality and community. **Priority will be given to first-time applicants.**

Application deadline: 4:30 PM, Friday, October 2, 2026

[Download the 2026 Application Form](#)

Municipal Exchange Launches

Municipal Exchange launched on September 3. This is a listserv 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. You can sign up for the listserv [here](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

session will share findings from *Exploring Fraud Responsibility: A Municipal Perspective*, highlighting insights from municipal leaders and staff across Canada. Participants will explore fraud awareness, council oversight, audit committees, and communication with staff and auditors, along with practical takeaways, common pitfalls, and questions councillors can ask to strengthen governance.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, October 15

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: Online

Register: [Click Here](#)

NEWS

[\\$78M renovation proposed for Cape Breton's Centre 200](#)

[Atlantic small businesses pay up to 146% more in property tax: CFIB](#)

[Bridgewater police dealing with complaints about loud mufflers](#)

[CBRM council calls emergency meeting over port development](#)

[CBRM deputy mayor concerned over delayed year-end financial statements](#)

[Halifax Water to seek residential hikes between 14 to 18 per cent over two years](#)

[Heat pump sales scam still ongoing in CBRM](#)

[Hubley bike park honours legacy of Kai Matthews](#)

[New GM says improving Truro community centre will be a marathon](#)

[NS municipalities told to spend RCMP savings on public safety](#)

[Nova Scotia launches stormwater system support program amid growing flood risks](#)

[Officials say New Waterford crime prevention efforts seem to be working](#)

[Port Hawkesbury flooding: residents want action as Town looks for answers](#)

[Province will keep covering RCMP critical response for most municipal police](#)

[Residents upset 2 beavers at Cole Harbour lake were euthanized](#)

[Road work underway on Yarmouth Main Street](#)

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](#).

[Stormwater Transformation Optimization and Resilience for Municipalities \(STORM\)](#): Provincial funding to help municipalities and villages improve stormwater management through planning, analysis, equipment, training and program development.

Deadline: November 12, 2026

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Updated Supplier List: September 2026

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. This month eight new contracts have been added and 21 existing ones renewed, all of which were awarded through an open RFP process to ensure competitive, trade-compliant agreements for the sector. View the [September Supplier Update](#). New suppliers include:

- Alliance – GetWireless – Tessco ([Public Safety Technology](#))
- Bomag ([Road Maintenance Equipment Program](#))
- C.E.T. Fire Pumps Manufacturing ([Firefighting Apparatus Program](#))
- Eso Solutions ([Public Safety Technology](#))
- MagneGrip ([HVAC Systems & Services Program](#))
- Masabi ([Public Utility Equipment Program](#))
- Motrec International ([Airport Solutions Program](#))
- Vertosoft ([Public Administration Software Program](#))

The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support.
NSFM/Canoe = Local.

Critical River Crossings

Building and maintaining safe, accessible road infrastructure requires access to sound products. The [NSFM/Canoe Culvert Program](#) provides access to a range of

washed out a critical river crossing in rural Manitoba, approved supplier [Armtec](#) delivered a durable box culvert tailored to the site's structural, hydraulic, and drainage needs. Learn how [thoughtful design and pre-construction collaboration](#) helped restore this vital connection efficiently, leveraging Armtec's expertise and the program's streamlined procurement process to respond quickly to urgent infrastructure needs. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

HR Spotlight Proposed Federal Privacy Reform

Bill C-36 remains proposed and is not in force. If passed, it would enact the *Protecting Privacy and Consumer Data Act* and amend the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*. Employers should monitor its potential impact on employee data, AI-assisted decisions, privacy notices, vendors, and cross-border personal-information transfers. [Learn about your takeaway](#): do not change your program solely because of the bill today. Instead, build strong privacy foundations now: map people data, review HR vendors, use understandable notices, and ensure there is human oversight of material AI-assisted decisions.

[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
- protect against service interruption and financial strain

This information is presented courtesy of the **NSFM Commercial Insurance Program**. Program information: imorrison@nsfm.ca

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Does Home Insurance Cover Plumbing Issues?

As a homeowner, plumbing issues are a headache. While homeowners' insurance is meant to protect your property from various risks, are you covered for this type of 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.

Municipal Wellness Program: September Newsletter

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. In the [September Newsletter](#), read about the following:

- More from the Municipal Wellness Cookbook
- Upcoming Webinars
- Wellness Bingo Challenge
- Wellness Grant Success Stories

Welcome Ambassador Program

The [Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia \(ISANS\)](#) is offering a free 10-hour in-person training course to become a newcomer Ambassador. The program is about the immigration landscape and develops practical skills in cross-cultural communication, trauma awareness, and inclusive community building. Open to volunteers, service providers, businesses, interested community members, and

- Location: 6960 Mumford Road, Halifax, Suite 2120
- Register [here](#)
- More information: gelmous@isans.ca

WEBINARS



NS Power: Vegetation Management Program - a NSFM Webinar

Join Nova Scotia Power for an overview of our vegetation management program and its role in supporting a safe, reliable, and resilient power system. Learn how vegetation management work is planned and delivered, how we engage with landowners and communities, and how these efforts help reduce outages and improve storm preparedness across Nova Scotia.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, October 6

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Location: Online

This webinar is for NSFM members only to Register: [Click Here](#)

RESOURCES

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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