NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Fall Conference 2026

Stronger Together:
Leadership, Trust & Transformation

Care to Comment?

Discussing approaches to public engagement at council meetings



Thursday, November 5, 2026

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Scott Christian

Mayor, Region of Queens Municipality

Queens County
SEEK NATURE'S REWARDS

Participation. Engagement. Active debate.

"…the guest will judge better of a feast than the cook."

Aristotle, Politics, Book III, Chapter 11

"He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that."

John Stuart Mill, On Liberty, 1859

"To achieve that future, Canada requires the participation, the engagement, the active debate of all Canadians."

Prime Minister Paul Martin, February 3, 2004



Governing. Incivility. (dis)Misinformation.

"Civility is not a soft skill—it's the foundation of effective governance."
Brenda Orchard, President, Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, 2025

"When public feedback crosses into intimidation or personal abuse, it can silence voices, distort decision-making and harm the wellbeing of elected officials and staff. That carries a cost for our organizations and the communities we serve."
Håkansson & Josefsson, *British Journal of Political Science,* 2026

"A lie can run around the world before the truth gets its boots on."
Terry Pratchett, *The Truth*, 2000

Our current approaches are a dog's breakfast

Topics

Agenda items only — Open forum

Time per speaker

3 minutes — 15 minutes

Number of speakers

Limited slots — No fixed limit

Registration

Required — Not required

Format

Open comment — Q & A



Virtual Polling Activity

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Group Discussion

