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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERS AWARD

Applications Now Open

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.

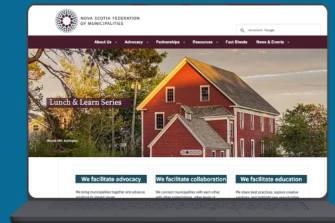
through innovative initiatives, collaborative efforts, and community involvement. The program celebrates municipal achievements, encourages continued climate action, and supports the implementation of Municipal Climate Change Action Plans while promoting knowledge sharing across Nova Scotia.

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](#)

NSFM WEBSITE UPDATES

New Resources Now Available on nsfm.ca



Awards

Environment &
Climate Change

Fact Sheets

Governance

We've made several updates to help keep municipalities informed and connected.



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

**New Climate Change Resources, Governance Documents,
Award Information & Fact Sheets**

Explore our new **Environment & Climate Change** webpage, bringing together information on municipal climate initiatives, funding opportunities, resources, and tools in one convenient location. We've also expanded our **Governance** page with links to key governance documents and newly published **Reports to Membership** from Board of Directors meetings. In addition, our **Awards** page has been updated with information on the **Climate Change Leaders Award** and the **Carbon Surcharge Fund Award**. Members can also now access the new **Fact Sheets** page, featuring plain-language fact sheets and bulletins on key municipal issues, why they matter, and how NSFM is advocating on behalf of municipalities.

Visit the [NSFM website](#) to explore these latest updates and resources.

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](#)

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Municipality of the County of Richmond: Arichat's Level-2 EV Charger

The Municipality of the County of Richmond recently invested in a Level 2 EV charger to support cleaner transportation while reflecting their commitment to accessibility and community use. Extra attention was paid to placement and sizing to ensure the parking spot met the accessibility standard. BCSF Community stream projects like this provide residents with modern and innovative infrastructure. Read more here: [BCSF Community stream Spotlight - Municipality of the County of Richmond: Arichat's Level-2 EV Charger](#)

Help Shape Canada's Net Zero Water Future

Canadian Water Network is inviting municipalities and water/wastewater utilities to complete a short survey to help inform the development of a **Net Zero Water Roadmap**.

Your input will help identify current efforts, challenges, and opportunities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving climate resilience, and supporting more sustainable water systems across Canada. Survey responses will help shape practical resources, case studies, and guidance for municipal and utility leaders. Responses will remain confidential.

Complete the survey by September 16, 2026, and help share your utility's story while contributing to Canada's net zero water future. [Click here to fill out survey.](#)

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

Survey: Coastal Policy Decision Making Guide

confidence on coastal issues such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. We are seeking your input in a survey that gathers your experience and requirements so the guide is genuinely useful, whether your municipality is just getting started or building on work already underway. There is an option to share your contact details if interested in a follow-up workshop.

- Results will only be reported in aggregate form
- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
- [Access survey here](#)
- Survey deadline: July 31
- More information: coastal@nsfm.ca

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 ensure a successful program for the benefit of the entire municipal sector. Updates on the transition process will be provided periodically.

- More info: imorrison@nsfm.ca

NSFM Listserv: Coming Soon...Sign Up Now!

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv designed to connect and support Nova Scotia's broader municipal sector. Participation is **free** and **open** to **municipal**

- 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](#).

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](#)

Research On Extremism in Canada

The [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#), the host organization for [Strong Cities Network](#), has produced a range of research products that examine different aspects of the hate, extremism, and targeted violence threat landscape, and may be relevant to the challenges your municipality is currently facing. [Learn more here](#) or visit the following links:

- [Online Domestic Extremism in Canada Data Briefing – June to November 2025](#)
- [Spotting the Signs: Recognizing and Responding to Subcultures of Nihilistic Violence](#)
- [Networks of Harm: A Victim-Centric Resource on the 764 Network](#)

NEWS

[Annapolis Valley libraries reconsidering imminent branch closures](#)

[Antigonish mayor voices concerns as Active Transportation Trail moves ahead](#)

[Canada knows how to reduce catastrophe losses. So why aren't we doing it?](#)

[CAT ferry having it's best season since before pandemic](#)

[CBRM holds emergency meeting, promises action on missed garbage pickups](#)

[Lawsuit by former Amherst police officer settled ahead of trial](#)

[N.S. Tories block Mi'kmaw participation in natural resource committee meeting](#)

[One Account Now Handles Building Permits Across Four Municipalities](#)

[Online abuse is keeping good people out of politics: Yarmouth mayor](#)

[Phase 2 of Windsor Street Exchange project underway](#)

[This N.S. town wants to use 100% renewable energy. It's more than halfway there](#)

[Why these painted beach boulders in the Annapolis Valley are polarizing](#)

[Why you might only vote with a phone or computer in Halifax's next election](#)

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.

Whether you're planning a new initiative or advancing an existing project, the NSFM Fund Navigation Program can help. Explore available opportunities through the Funding Portal or connect with the Fund Navigator at fundnavigator@nsfm.ca.

PROGRAMS

The [NSFM/Canoe Enterprise Resource Planning Program](#) provides municipalities with access to a roster of approved ERP solutions providers and implementers through one program. You can choose your software and pair it with an implementer or engage an implementer first to advise on the right solution for your organization.

Join us on Tuesday September 15, for an interactive one-hour session where they will highlight this new program and share how Canoe's flexible contracting approach simplifies service procurement, from scoping your project to engaging with vendors and getting to delivery faster.

- September 15 @ 2:00 pm
- [Register here](#)

NSFM/Canoe Updated Supplier List: July 2026

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

- Enterprise and Resource Planning (ERP)
- Sweeper & Vacuum Equipment
- Playground Supply
- Facility Security, 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.**

Waste Management Equipment

The [NSFM/Canoe Waste Management Equipment Program](#) has partnered with leading manufacturers of innovative waste management vehicles and equipment. With a wide variety of suppliers to choose from, municipal units will be able to find the products that meet their specific needs. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

HR Spotlight

Employer Discouraged Worker from Reporting Mental Health Injury Claim

A recent [BC Supreme Court decision](#) highlights the risks employers face when discussing workers' compensation claims with employees. The Court upheld a

finding that an employer contravened the *Workers Compensation Act* after management encouraged a worker to remain on disability benefits rather than report

a mental health injury to the Workers' Compensation Board. The decision confirms that mental health injuries are protected under workplace reporting provisions. Employers must take care to train managers never to discourage or redirect employees away from filing a WCB claim, even if the intent is supportive. Mental health injuries carry the same legal protections as physical ones. When in doubt, direct employees to HR or an occupational health professional.

[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

Municipal HST Offset Grants Issued

The 2026 Municipal HST Offset Grants have been finalized. The grant is based on the submissions from municipalities collected by NSFM this past spring. As a result of this NSFM Program, \$6 million in funding will be issued to municipalities across Nova Scotia this month by the Municipal Finance Team at Department of Municipal Affairs. Thank you to DMA staff for their assistance with this program and thank you to the municipalities who submitted their information to qualify for the grant.

In 1998, NSFM negotiated the Municipal HST Offset Program with the province, intended to lessen the financial impact on municipalities paying the HST. Since then, the program has provided approximately \$156 million to municipalities. Payments are based on municipal expenditures in the previous year.

- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca

The Basics of a “Deductible”?

When it comes to car insurance, one of the most important but overlooked details is the deductible. So, what does a “car insurance deductible” really mean? [Read more about it.](#)

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.

BrokerLink
Insurance insights
Your trusted group partner

BrokerLink
Insurance

Krown Discount Program

[Krown](#) and NSFM offer a discount program on services offered by Krown, for the benefit of elected leaders and staff working within the broader municipal sector in Nova Scotia:

- 15% off discount on all Krown Vehicle Products
- Offer valid for all elected leaders, staff, and their friends and family
- Presentation of the Dealer Promo Code required

Click [Krown Discount Program](#) for more program information, including the Dealer Promo Code to access your benefit.

WEBINARS

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

**canoe**
procurement

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.

Event Details

Date: August 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Register: [Click Here](#)

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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