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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

EXCEEDING THE VISION

NSFM Spring Conference May 3-5, 2023 - Digby, NS

The 2023 NSFM Spring Conference will take place from May 3rd – 5th at the Digby Pines Resort.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the conference website. The full program, registration and accommodation details are found on the site.



Don't miss out on the early bird registration fee!
The Planning Committee has put together a very exciting and informative program that you will not want to miss.

HST OFFSET PROGRAM – DEADLINE REMINDER

For CAO's and Directors of Finance:

Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting your HST Offset Application Form is **APRIL 3RD, 2023**.

The original email with the NEW APPLICATION FORM was sent to all municipalities by email on February 7th, 2023.

If you didn't receive that email, please contact jwebber@nsfm.ca.

Committee Appointment: AMANS Municipal Accessibility Steering Committee

From AMANS

The Municipal Accessibility Steering Committee is a volunteer-based committee that will determine the program direction and priorities to ensure it is meeting the needs of municipalities and villages.

Commitment Requirements:

Meetings will happen once a month for approximately 1-2 hours for the first several months while the committee settles into their work. The frequency of meetings can then be reassessed based on discussions within the committee who may decide to reduce the frequency of meetings to bi-monthly or quarterly meetings.

All committee meetings will take place virtually.

Committee members are asked to commit to participating for a 16-month (one and a half year) term from February 2023 – June 2024.

To apply, please submit a short description of your interests and experience to info@nsfm.ca.

[View the Terms of Reference here.](#)

NSFM Seeking Member Photos



We are seeking member photo submissions to show off their municipality for NSFM social media, presentations, and our printed products.

Have a photo-friendly favourite spot in your municipality? Know a shutterbug that would love to share their content with us?

[Reach out and show us what you have!](#)

NRCAN Launches Call For Proposals For Codes Acceleration Fund

opportunities for projects geared towards accelerating the adoption and implementation of the highest feasible tiers of national model energy codes or other high performance building codes. The application period **closes March 27, 2023**. Indigenous applicants have until March 31, 2025, to submit proposals.

[For information on how to apply, visit the CAF website.](#)

Municipal Innovation Call for Expressions of Interest

Associate Professor **Zachary Spicer** (York University) and Assistant Professor **Joseph Lyons** (Western University) are completing a project about municipal innovation. The project consists of an edited book where municipal practitioners would be writing case studies about particular innovations in their community. They are looking for representation from Atlantic Canada.

Please feel free to review the call for Expressions of Interest [here](#).

Funding Available for Rural Transit

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund, Capital Projects Stream, is now [open for a second intake of applications](#). Eligible applicants, including rural municipalities, can seek funding of up to \$3 million to help cover the capital costs of new or expanded transit solutions (e.g., purchase of vehicles or digital platforms) and up to \$5 million to support zero-emission transit solutions (e.g., for the purchase of zero-emission vehicle(s)).

The Rural Transit Solutions Fund responds directly to FCM advocacy by supporting a wide range of delivery models for rural, remote, and small communities. [Register to the webinar to learn more.](#)

Infrastructure Canada Launches Call for Applications to Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)

The DMAF is a national, competitive, and merit-based contribution program intended to support infrastructure projects designed to mitigate current and future climate-related risks and disasters triggered by natural hazards, such as floods, wildland fires, droughts, and seismic events.

Eligible projects include new construction of public infrastructure and/or modification or reinforcement of existing public infrastructure, including natural infrastructure, that prevent, mitigate, or protect against the impacts of climate change, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and extreme weather.

[Information on the DMAF, including the applicant's guide, eligibility criteria, and how to apply, is available at this link.](#)

Applications must be submitted to Infrastructure Canada through the application portal accessible via the DMAF website. Applications will be accepted at any time before the portal closes on **July 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. (EDT)**.

[For program questions, contact dmaf-faac@inf.gc.ca](mailto:dmaf-faac@inf.gc.ca)

Applications are open: join the Accessibility Standards Canada (ASC) technical committees

ASC are recruiting members for three (3) new technical committees:

1. [Technical committee for Acoustics](#)
2. [Technical committee for the Design and Delivery of Accessible Programs and Services](#)
3. [Technical committee for Accessible Travel Journey](#)

To learn more about each individual technical committee or the members' role, click or press on one of the three links above.

Deadline: You have until **April 18, 2023**, to apply.

Diversity and inclusion are at the core of our organization. We aim for the same thing when creating our committees. We are looking for 12 to 18 members per committee in the following categories:

- People with disabilities
- Consumer and public interest
- Academic and research bodies
- Non-governmental organizations
- Government bodies and authorities with jurisdiction
- Labour and unions
- Standards development bodies

It could be you! Apply today by visiting the ASC website. [Creating accessibility standards - Accessibility Standards Canada](#)

Can't join? Please help us spread the word by sharing this opportunity within your network.



Upcoming Events

[Save the Date:](#) [Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange](#)

NSFM, in partnership with FBM, is hosting the Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange on **April 27, 2023 at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish**. This one-day event is the chance for community leaders, elected officials, advocates, and place makers to share aspirations and success stories for Main Streets and Downtowns in communities across the province.

We are excited that Antigonish-based Author, Entrepreneur, and Chocolatier **Tareq Hadhad** has been confirmed as a keynote speaker for the event.

The event will include a chance to network and engage in three panel discussions:

- Mobility and accessibility at the core of communities;
- Vibrant Main Streets for health and social connection; and
- Main Streets as Incubators and Catalysts for the Local Economy.

Event details:

Time: **April 27, 2023, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm**

Place: MacKay Room, Bloomfield Centre, **St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish**
Continental Breakfast, lunch and refreshments will be provided.

[Pre-registration is required](#). The event cost is \$25+HST, however a no-fee option will be available for community members or representatives of organizations that are unable to cover the ticket price.

Travel and accommodation subsidies are also available to assist those in need. [Please contact Gordon Tate](#) by March 31 with your request for assistance.

[Asset Management for Nova Scotia Municipalities Webinar](#)

NSFM's infrastructure and sustainability webinar series returns with a session on asset management for municipalities in Nova Scotia. **Matt Delorme of AIM Network** will introduce participants to the work his organization has been doing on municipal asset management and give an overview of the training AIM Network offers. **Gary Lines of ClimAction Services** will review the Climate Resilience Framework and how it can be applied to integrating climate change impacts and adaptation issues to asset management. **Kyle McKenzie of NSFM** will remind participants of NSFM's online asset management course.

A question and answer session will follow.

Time: **Mar 22, 2023 2:00-3:15 PM ADT**

Registration is required. Ahead of time register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88424049062> in a web browser or log into your Zoom account and use Meeting ID: 884 2404 9062.

[Reminder: March Virtual Gathering for Prescribed Public Sector Bodies](#)

The Accessibility Directorate is pleased to be hosting the next Virtual Gathering for Prescribed Public Sector Bodies on **Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom**.

The topic of this session is **Leading by Example: Updates on Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan 2022-2025 and Accessibility Plan Implementation Discussions**.

If you have any questions about the session or your accessibility work, please reach out to Hannah MacDougall at Hannah.MacDougall@novascotia.ca

Save the Date: Social Media Accessibility Workshop with The Accessibility Directorate

This workshop will explore the importance of social media accessibility, focusing on practical steps you can take to make copy and content more accessible to all on platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Save the date: **April 19, 2023, from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, on Zoom.**
More details and a registration link will be coming soon.

Infrastructure Canada Webinar Series

Infrastructure Canada is hosting a series of webinars for guidance on preparing a strong Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) application. They will provide an overview of the program, its requirements and advice to help applicants navigate the application process.

To register: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/dmaf-faac/webinar-webinaire-eng.html>

Final session: Tuesday, March 21, 1:30-2:30pm (EDT)



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