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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 3 – 5 at the Digby Pines Resort.

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

Municipal Success Stories are one of our highest rated sessions. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear Town of Wolfville speak on Devour! Studios; Town of Port Hawkesbury and Municipality of Richmond on the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task force; and Town of Kentville on their recreation Spike fund!

Be sure to register soon so you don't miss out on the early bird registration fee.



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.](#)

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](#).

Management

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (the Department) has been engaging with external stakeholders to modernize how construction and demolition (C&D) debris is managed in Nova Scotia. We are now sharing the results of the targeted engagement, the updated Guidelines, and what you can expect next.

Results of Targeted Engagement and next steps

The What We Heard is attached and outlines the results of the targeted engagement that the Department undertook to establish the final Guidelines and how feedback has been addressed.

The What We Heard also describes a phased-in approach for many of the new requirements and timing for submitting approval applications.

Finalized Guidelines

Amendments to the following Guidelines have been approved and are available online, here:

- [Solid Waste Management Facility Guidelines for Construction and Demolition \(C&D\) Debris Storage, Transfer, Process and Disposal](#)
- [Solid Waste Management Facility Guidelines for Municipal Waste Transfer Facilities](#)

The Guidelines, which outline minimum requirements for approval holders, will come into effect on July 5, 2023, aligning with the following two regulatory changes:

- Treated wood ban from disposal at C&D facilities
- Approvals required for processing, transfer, and storage of C&D material

Project leadership

If you have any questions, please reach out to the project lead, Don MacQueen (Donald.MacQueen@novascotia.ca).

CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund

The Housing Accelerator Fund – launching in summer 2023 – provides incentive funding to local governments to boost housing supply across Canada.

Learn about program and funding details, expected outcomes and resources to support your application:

[Register for the session on April 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST](#)

[Register for the session on April 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST](#)

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 \[dmaf-faac@inf.gc.ca\]\(mailto:dmaf-faac@inf.gc.ca\)](#)

Submitted by the Nova Scotia Prompt Payment Team

Nova Scotia made changes to the *Builders' Lien Act* in 2019 and again in 2022 to allow for prompt payment and adjudication and has been working closely with CANS and a coalition of industry associations on drafting the regulations which will set the details for these processes.

Before finalizing the proposed regulations, the Province is seeking feedback from those who work with, and in the construction industry, regarding the proposed prompt payment and adjudication processes. It is important to receive feedback from the public and interested groups to ensure the development of this process is transparent to those impacted.

A survey outlining the key components of the prompt payment and adjudication process has been launched to collect feedback from interested parties. [The survey will be available until April 10 and can be found here.](#)

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
- Federally regulated industries and workplaces
- Federally regulated public sector bodies, municipalities, and territorial private-sector firms
- Business and industry

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.

Nova Scotia Walk Day on Wednesday May 10th

The goal of Nova Scotia Walk Day is to celebrate walking and how it connects us to our communities and to each other.

Hike Nova Scotia is inviting municipalities to host a short, friendly walk in their community any time that day.

[Sign up by Wed. April 26 to receive promotional materials.](#)



canoe

Upcoming Events

[Preliminary agenda for N.S. Main Streets Ideas Exchange now available](#)

Location: St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S.

Description:

The preliminary agenda for NSFM's Main Streets Ideas Exchange event is now available online. 14 speakers and panelists have been confirmed, including keynote speaker Tareq Hadhad of Peace by Chocolate. This one-day event is the chance for community leaders, elected officials, advocates, and place makers from across Nova Scotia to share aspirations and success stories for Main Streets and Downtowns in communities across the province.

[Register Here](#)

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.



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