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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Update on Retroactive Pay for RCMP Officers

Last week, NSFM was invited to attend an ad-hoc Contract Management Committee Meeting (CMC) in which Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada, Talal Dakalbab, shared the federal government's decision regarding the retroactive pay for RCMP officers. In this meeting, ADM Dakalbab shared that the Treasury Board and Public Safety Canada have decided that municipalities must pay these retroactive pay amounts based on the current cost-share formula. ADM Dakalbab further explained that letters from Public Safety Canada and invoices with the specific amounts to be paid will be sent to contract holders by March 31, 2023, and that payment will be due by April 1, 2025.

This decision is disappointing as the only relief offered to municipalities is a slightly extended timeline for repayment. NSFM is engaging with other municipal associations that are represented on the CMC and joined a group call convened by FCM to determine our response to this decision. FCM and other municipal associations are set on expressing our disappointment with this decision and will be issuing a joint statement. With longer-term challenges in mind, FCM and NSFM wants to ensure municipalities are taken seriously and have a say in decisions that impact them.

NSFM will continue to provide updates on further developments.

Updates on RCMP Collective Bargaining and Body-worn Cameras

NSFM is providing updates received as an associate member from the Contract Management Committee so that municipalities who receive policing service from the RCMP can budget accordingly.

[Collective Bargaining Update](#)
[Body-worn Cameras Update](#)

ROOMS AT DIGBY PINES

If you've booked a room at Digby Pines that you don't plan to use, kindly call to the resort and release it so those on the waiting list can book a room.

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.

SPOTLIGHT: Municipal Perspectives: A Conversation

Join Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson (Municipality of the District of Lunenburg), Mayor Laurie Boucher (Town of Antigonish) and Mayor Abraham Zebian (West Hants Regional) as they discuss unique issues and challenges, such as funding, zoning, etc., as we work together to become a unified voice. Mayor David Mitchell (Town of Bridgewater) will act as moderator and will be seeking audience participation. Be ready to share your views



Building Advisory Committee Call for Expression of Interest

As part of the provincial Agency, Boards, and Commissions (ABC) recruitment process, the Building Advisory Committee is seeking a nominee from NSFM. The Building Advisory Committee provides the Minister of DMAH with advice and assistance concerning the Building Advisory Act and regulations. For more

This committee will be overseeing the New Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment.

If you are interested in participating and meet the posted requirements, please submit an Expression of Interest to info@nsfm.ca.

While the NSFM Board of Directors nominates an elected official, the selection process is completed at the provincial level.

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 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST](#)

[Read the Fact Sheet 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.](#)

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.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority Healthy Communities teams in Public Health have updated the [Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health](#).

Nova Scotia Walk Day on Wednesday May 10th

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.](#)

[Accepting Applications for the Minister's List of Arbitrators](#)

The Arbitration Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration regarding the appointment of arbitrators to hear and resolve grievance matters.

Please send your cover letter and resume, and any supporting documentation, to:

The Honourable Jill Balsler
Minister, Labour, Skills and Immigration
c/o Labour Services Branch
cynthia.yazbek@novascotia.ca

The deadline for applications is April 30, 2023.

They are currently advertising for arbitrators for the Minister's List. Applications from African Nova Scotian and Mik'maq persons, individuals who identify as women, persons with disabilities, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and other equity-deserving groups, and individuals who are able to conduct hearings in French are encouraged.

Applicants are encouraged to self-identify in their applications.

PEOPLE FIRST

HR SERVICES

A division of People Corporation

HR OnCall from People First HR

NSFM and AMANS have partnered with **HR OnCall** to offer municipal units, regardless of size or scope, expertise and practical solutions to meet their human resource needs. NSFM members will receive a special program rate of \$60/month (\$720 annually) for the service. Gain access to best practices and advice for your HR inquiries when you need it.

- [Click here for the NSFM Subscription](#)
- [Click here for HR OnCall Service Options](#)
- [Click here for HR OnCall FAQs](#)

NSFM will be hosting a webinar outlining the service on **May 18 @ 10 am**. To register, contact imorrison@nsfm.ca



canoe

Upcoming Events

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

Date: Thursday April 27, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

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](#)

Accessibility Directorate "Train the Trainer" course

The Accessibility Directorate will host select members on **Wednesday, May 10 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM** to teach experienced facilitators to deliver a newly created educational workshop called The Foundations of Accessibility.

This 3-hour, free workshop will train people to facilitate a workshop on foundational concepts about disability and accessibility. Your participation in this course supports Nova Scotia's commitment to be an accessible province. Building our awareness and capacity to improve accessibility is an important way we will meet this goal.

Application process:

To ensure representation from a wide variety of organizations in our limited number of spaces, this training has an application process. Please complete the application at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/CLJL4bpHqi>

Applying to participate does not guarantee you a spot in the workshop. **The deadline for applications is April 24** and we will let you know if you have been accepted by April 28, 2023.

Social Media Accessibility Workshop POSTPONED

The Social Media Accessibility Workshop that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, has been postponed to a later date.

The accessibility directorate apologize for any inconvenience this postponement may cause. The workshop will be rescheduled, and we look forward to sharing updated registration information soon.

If you have any questions about the session, please reach out to accessibility@novascotia.ca

Webinars: Learn More About Electric Vehicle Fleets

New options for powering the vehicles municipalities use in their operations are rapidly coming to market. Knowing how these new pieces of equipment could fit into your operations can be a challenge. The Canoe Procurement Group brings together industry experts to let you know what is available today, what is coming in the near future, and how you can ensure any new technologies will be a successful addition to your community.

[An update on light duty vehicles, including the smaller vehicles that have been available for several years and pickup trucks just arriving on the market. Discussion includes options to keep vehicles charged, including both fleet and public charging stations.](#)

[Equipment used by Public Works and other departments to keep communities working. Suppliers for light-duty grounds maintenance equipment, medium and heavy construction equipment, and ice resurfacers comment on current and future electric equipment available.](#)

Webinars courtesy of Canoe Procurement Group



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