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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Organizational Update from DMAH

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing have welcomed new Associate Deputy Minister, **Valerie Pottie Bunge** and new Executive Director of Municipal Affairs, **Andrew Atherton**.

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: Networking Opportunities at the Spring Conference

NSFM events are a great way to meet other municipally elected officials, staff, and stakeholders! From a Charity Casino Night, to shared luncheons, and networking breaks spaced frequently throughout, all of our events offer ample opportunities to network and forge connections with colleagues from across the province.



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](#)

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](#)

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

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.](#)

[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](#)
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Upcoming Events

[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.

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](#)

HR OnCall Webinar May 18, 10 a.m.

NSFM and AMANS have partnered with People First HR Services to offer an informational webinar for municipal leaders on the HR OnCall service on **May 18, at 10 a.m.** This endorsed service is a support service for NS municipalities to gain access to a dedicated HR professional who can provide expertise and advice on the following:

- Creating a respectful workplace
- Disability management consultation
- Discussing requirements for
 - CAO evaluations
 - Employee discipline or termination
 - Employee relations
 - Legislation and best practices
 - Policy development
 - Workplace procedures

This session will provide:

- An overview of the HR OnCall Service
- How to access the service
- Q&A

To register, contact imorrison@nsfm.ca

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.

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.](#)



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
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