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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program

NSFM offers a comprehensive and flexible commercial, D&O, and liability insurance program so that municipal units are able to effectively meet the needs of their citizens. Benefits can be summarized as follows:

- Continued evaluation around the quality of the broker services (annual survey) and acting on the results received from participants
- Education and awareness around risk management issues (including inspections which contain hazard recommendations as well as building valuations and contract reviews)
- Guiding participants to control claims by mitigating risks in advance
- Local claims management
- Insurance products specifically aimed at municipal units and the expertise of the service team
- Leveraging the strength of the relationships within the program (insurer, brokers, program sponsor)
- Stability within an unstable landscape
- Strength in numbers

The advantages of the program are best explained by the municipal units participating in the NSFM program:

- Benefit of being part of a larger group
- Communication with fellow municipalities
- Economies of scale
- Insurance provided through a municipal lens
- Not having to tender and plan the program oneself
- Program tailored to small, medium, and large municipalities

In addition, the NSFM program offers value-added education around topics such as:

- Hazards of Special Events
- How Hail Affects Shingle Roofs
- How to Increase Resilience of Urban Trees
- Mitigation strategies within our communities to address the threat of extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires
- Towards a Flood Forecasting Framework in Canada

Have you evaluated your commercial insurance needs recently?

Questions about the NSFM program, contact imorrison@nsfm.ca

[New Federal Funding for Green Affordable Housing](#)

Submit your application for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

Canada's Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, has announced the opening of the Application Portal for the Housing Accelerator Fund.

The application portal will be open until August 18th, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST.

Access resources including the HAF Applicant Guide

The [Applicant Guide](#) has been developed to help you to effectively navigate the application submission process and portal. Visit cmhc.ca to access the Guide and other useful information and resources.

Get Answers to your Questions

CMHC is available to answer questions you may have on submitting your application. Simply contact them by phone at 1-800-668-2642 or email them

[Spring/Summer Municipal Observer Out Now!](#)

Member Update Re: Policing

NSFM represents all municipalities in Nova Scotia and works on their behalf to support strong, sustainable, safe communities. Providing policing services is primarily a municipal responsibility in Nova Scotia and NSFM has been engaged in recent developments related to the RCMP. This update is meant to ensure that all members are informed on these recent developments.

Retroactive Pay for RCMP Officers

The first round of collective bargaining between the federal government and the National Policing Federation (NPF) resulted in retroactive payments for RCMP officers below the rank of Inspector. The federal government indicated that contract partners should prepare for these costs. NSFM worked with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to challenge this decision while we awaited further clarification on what these costs would be and how they would be paid. In the presentation of the 2023 budget, the federal government indicated the decision to distribute these costs with the regular cost-share formula. NSFM worked closely with municipalities that have Municipal Policing Service Agreements (MPSA) as they received invoices for retroactive pay amounts shortly after the federal budget was announced. Minimal details were again provided by the federal government about when payment was due and how municipalities could apply for the optional two-year extended payment plan being offered by Public Safety Canada. NSFM continued to work with FCM and with counterparts across the country on the RCMP Contract Management Committee (CMC) to urge the federal government to rethink this decision and provide financial relief to municipalities. [NSFM sent a letter to the Minister of Public Safety on behalf of MPSAs to make this request directly.](#) In the end, municipalities were given the option of a two-year extended timeline ending March 2025 to pay these amounts.

The Province of Nova Scotia has also challenged this decision. The Province, as the contract holder of the Provincial Policing Service Agreement (PPSA) in Nova Scotia, received an invoice for retroactive pay costs. [NSFM has written letters to both the Minister of Justice, Hon. Brad Johns,](#) and to the [Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice,](#) urging them to absorb this cost rather than pass it on through the regular cost-sharing mechanisms. In response to these letters, Department of Justice staff have informed NSFM that the Province is pushing back on these costs by using the PPSA dispute resolution mechanism. Department of Justice staff have further informed NSFM that they have not received any response from the federal Department of Public Safety yet. NSFM will continue to keep members who are party to the PPSA informed as this dispute process develops.

After meeting with the Department of Public Safety Canada directly, FCM reported that it is not likely that the federal government will reverse this decision. While NSFM stands with the Province in questioning these costs, we believe that our time and efforts will be best used preparing for other concerns that are more costly and apply to all policing models in Nova Scotia.

Update on Collective Bargaining

[Please find the attached PowerPoint slides that the Treasury Board of Canada presented to the RCMP CMC.](#)

The first collective agreement between the Government of Canada (Treasury Board of Canada) and NPF (representing the RCMP employees) expired on March 31, 2023. The second round of collective bargaining commenced on January 23, 2023. The Treasury Board has prioritized negotiating a new collective agreement as soon as possible to minimize any retroactive pay.

CMC officials recently received an update from the Treasury Board Secretariat delivered by Stephen Diotte, Chief Negotiator for the Government of Canada. CMC members were advised that negotiations with NPF are now primarily focused on monetary considerations. The most recent negotiation sessions took place on June 6-8. The Treasury Board Secretariat reported that this round of collective bargaining has gone well, and they are now awaiting a response from NPF. NSFM will continue to update members as negotiations are concluded.

Consultation on Contract Policing

Report and is not directly connected to the MCC recommendation of an independent review of the RCMP. Please note that some of the planned dates have changed due to unanticipated delays.

NSFM has written letters to both the [provincial Department of Justice](#) and the [federal Department of Public Safety](#) asking when Nova Scotian municipalities will have a chance to participate in this consultation. As 39 municipalities in Nova Scotia use contract policing, they certainly have valuable insights to contribute to this assessment.

NSFM has recently confirmed with the Department of Justice that the Province will include NSFM in their consultation sessions with the federal government. [NSFM has also received a response from the Department of Public Safety Canada](#) stating they will be engaging with municipalities, grouped by jurisdiction, as part of the upcoming second phase of their engagement. Public Safety Canada has also informed NSFM that they welcome a written submission to this consultation by the end of this summer. NSFM plans to make a written submission to this consultation based on staff research and direct engagement with NSFM members. NSFM will continue to keep members informed of opportunities to contribute to this assessment.

2 Billion Trees Program Launch

This program is open to Provincial government, municipal and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, indigenous organizations and communities, and individuals such as private landowners are all welcome and encouraged to share their expression of interest.

Expressions of interest are open and available on the website: [Nova Scotia's Thriving Forests - Clean Foundation](#)

To ensure your project is assessed for the first phase of planting, please submit before 11:59 PM on August 15, 2023.

If you would like to stay up to date on this deadline and others – please visit the webpage and join the mailing list: <https://cleanfoundation.ca/thriving-forests/>.

[Coastal Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

Explore this toolkit for advice on how to best prepare for coastal climate impacts

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](#)



Gasboy Solutions:
A Canoe Procurement Partner

dispensing equipment or fuel management system needs that your municipality may have.

Leverage Gasboy's Sourcewell/Canoe Procurement Group of Canada FMS contract #092290-GVR for pre-negotiated discounts on fuel management solutions. A wide range of Fuel Management System solutions to assist any size fleet are available.

- Information on the Fuel Management Program: <https://canoeprocurement.ca/program/fuel-management-program/>
- What is Gasboy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87-W8S3r_W0
- Gasboy products offered through Canoe: <https://info.gasboy.com/canoe-procurement-group-fueling-solutions>

For more information, contact:

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Mobile: (647) 822-7514

Website: www.gasboy.com



[Kentville Municipal Rink Fast-Tracks Buying Process with Canoe, Cuts Costs](#)

New Suppliers and Renewed Contracts Under NSFM's Canoe Procurement Program

The Canoe/NSFM partnership strives to continually provide a wide range of procurement options to our membership. This is the latest [list of both new suppliers to Canoe as well as recently renewed contracts with current suppliers](#). Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. We hope this new list will help keep our members well informed to any and all changes.

Contact **Andy Saxby** to get started with Canoe Procurement for your municipality's purchasing needs:

Andy Saxby

Member Outreach Representative

Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

Phone: [\(902\) 417-2575](tel:9024172575)

E-mail: andy@canoeprocurement.ca

In The News

[Two Cape Breton groups awarded energy funding for upgrades](#)



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