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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

The past weekend has been a difficult one for our province and our members. Our thoughts are with the municipalities and their staff and leadership; agencies, personnel, and leadership at all levels of government; service/volunteer agencies; and brave first responders as they struggle in the aftermath of the devastating flooding that has ravaged our beautiful province. Our thoughts also extend to all Nova Scotians and their families, friends, pets, and livestock that have been affected by the flooding. We are thankful for the first responders and the many volunteers that have provided and continue to provide support. We are inspired by the sense of kindness that exists within our communities. Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is present to serve our members in any way possible.

NEWS

2023 Fall Conference: Save the Date

Save the date for the NSFM Fall Conference, which occurs November 7-10 in Halifax.

The conference theme is **Raising the Bar on Local Leadership**. Program and registration details will be available in early September.

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

to all policing models in Nova Scotia.

Update on Collective Bargaining

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 in June. 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.

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

Consultation on Contract Policing

[Please see the overview of the current federal assessment on contract policing.](#) This assessment began prior to the release of the Mass Casualty Commission (MCC) 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 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.

IN THE NEWS

[Historic Flooding Hits NS: Communities Grapple With Flooding Fallout](#)

[CBRM Council Majority Votes to Move Ahead with Changes to Planning, Land-use Rules](#)

[First Projects Under Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund Announced](#)

[Some N.S. Municipalities Create Police Boards After Provincial Reminder — Others Say No](#)

[Cape Breton Organizations Going a Little Greener](#)

GRANTS

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. All are welcome and encouraged to share their expression of interest.

Expressions of interest are open and available on the following 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. 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/>.

Submit Applications for the Housing Accelerator Fund

Accelerator Fund (HAF). The application portal will be open until August 18 @ 11:59 pm (Eastern).

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 @ 1-800-668-2642 or email them at contactcentre@cmhc.ca

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

The Canada Greener Affordable Housing (CGAH) program

PROGRAMS

NFSM & Canoe Paint Supply Program

We live in a colourful world, so why limit your projects to shades of grey? With the Canoe Paint Supply Program, you can access a wide range of architectural and commercial paint, wallcoverings, and tools that will help you get the job done right. Our program is fully trade compliant, cuts through the administrative hassles, and gives you exclusive access to preferential pricing and services.

[NFSM Canoe Paint Supply Program information](#)

NSFM & Canoe Procurement Program

Do you need help finding cost-effective products and services and would you like to learn more about using [Canoe Procurement](#)?

Andy Saxby is here to help. Since January, Andy has been working as the member outreach representative for Nova Scotia municipal units. He is your direct contact for the Canoe program.

In his role, Andy helps local governments and non-profits find time and cost-saving benefits on a wide variety of municipal needs. He also provides educational sessions and support to help members navigate the cooperative procurement process.

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

Andy Saxby

Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

Phone: (902) 417-2575

E-mail: andy@canoeprocurement.ca

NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program

NFSM 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

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

Running on Empty? Canoe Procurement Has the Answer

Your municipality's fleet is always expected to be ready for anything. Is your fueling solution upholding its end of the bargain? Through the Canoe Fuel and Fleet Asset Management Program, Gasboy Solutions can get your setup evaluated by professionals, with any upgrades pre-tendered on your behalf and designed with top-tier value in mind.

- Information on the Fuel Management Program: <https://canoeprocurement.ca/program/fuel-management-program/>
- What is Gasboy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87-W8S3r_WQ
- Gasboy products offered through Canoe: <https://info.gasboy.com/canoe-procurement-group-fueling-solutions>

RESOURCES

[Coastal Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#)

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

[Spring/Summer Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



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