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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Join us at the **NSFM 2024 Spring Conference** held at the picturesque Inverary Inn in Baddeck. Featuring **keynote speaker Olympian Brad Gushue**, our conference offers dynamic sessions on vital topics such as unique tourism strategies, youth engagement, effective communication, and municipal climate change adaptation frontrunners to name a few. Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow municipal leaders and gain valuable insights to drive progress in your community.

More information and registration details will be coming next month.

Accommodations – Open for Booking

The event will begin with a meet and greet reception the evening of May 8 and conclude by 11:30 am on May 10 – more details will come closer to the date.

[Inverary Resort](#) – block will be held until April 7

When the Inverary Inn is full:

[Auberge Gisele's Inn](#) – block will be held until April 30
Directly across from Inverary Inn

[Learn More](#)

Registration: The conference site with the detailed program and registration information will be coming closer to the date.

Further information: Judy Webber jwebber@nsfm.ca

Join the 2024 NSFM Fall Conference Planning Committee

We invite you to participate in the 2024 NSFM Fall Conference Planning Committee. Scheduled for November 27 to 29 in Halifax post-election, this conference offers a valuable opportunity for municipal leaders to collaborate and address important issues facing Nova Scotia communities.

The committee's role is to develop the conference agenda and assist in chairing sessions, with NSFM staff handling logistics. Meetings will be held virtually, likely two to three times before the event, beginning tentatively on March 28.

Preference will be given to those planning to re-offer in the upcoming municipal elections, ensuring continuity throughout the planning process and the event itself. Four individuals will join the Chair on the committee.

Candidates will be reviewed and appointed by the Chair of the 2024 planning committee. This is an opportunity to contribute to the success of NSFM's flagship event and network with municipal leaders across the province.

To express your interest, please submit your name by March 5 to jwebber@nsfm.ca. We appreciate your dedication to serving Nova Scotia municipalities and look forward to collaborating with you.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

[Public Safety Advisory Committee](#)

This committee has begun reviewing requests received from members. Chaired by Councillor Fraser Patterson of Victoria County, this committee advises how municipal concerns related to public safety can be collaboratively and effectively addressed.

This Advisory Committee has met to review the call for a **Vulnerable Persons Registry** and concerns about **Rural Cellphone Coverage During Emergencies**.

- On the recommendation of this Committee, the NSFM Board of Directors has designated the creation of a voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry, or voluntary Vulnerable Person Registries, supported by collaboration between municipalities and the provincial government, as an **advocacy priority for NSFM**.
- This Advisory Committee is continuing to review membership concerns with Rural Cellphone Coverage During Emergencies.

If you have passion for public safety, check out the [Advisory Committee Overview Document](#) to learn how you can submit a request to the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

Some information on the Committee:

- Scheduled meetings take place 4 times a year, with additional meetings arising as necessary.
- Committee members review advocacy issues generated by NSFM member councils like yours and emerging municipal priorities.

Reach out today or learn more from upcoming updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications.

[Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee](#)

The committee has begun to review membership priorities. Chaired by Warden Alex Morrison of Annapolis County, this committee advises how supporting municipal autonomy can aid progress toward province-wide goals.

There are currently 2 open positions for elected officials on the Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee.

If you have an interest in exploring municipal autonomy, please forward your name and a brief description of your background to wpetite@nsfm.ca. **The deadline to express interest is March 21.**

Some information on the Committee:

- Scheduled meetings take place 4 times a year, with additional meetings arising as necessary.
- Committee members review advocacy issues generated by NSFM member councils like yours and emerging municipal priorities.
- Terms of Reference are available upon request.

Reach out today or learn more from upcoming updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications.

[Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee](#)

The committee has commenced its work. The Committee will provide opportunities for education and knowledge sharing among the membership related to the promotion of the voices of underrepresented individuals in local government and collaboration among diverse community stakeholders. Chaired by Councillor Alison Graham, the committee is looking for one additional elected official to join.

- Committees meet 4 times a year to review advocacy issues generated by the membership
- Terms of Reference are available
- Stay tuned for additional updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications

Have an interest in this Committee? Please forward your name and a background brief to imorrison@nsfm.ca **Deadline: February 29**

SEEKING SUCCESS STORIES

Call for Youth Engagement Success Stories!

NSFM Spring Conference 2024 – May 8-10

Do you have a remarkable youth engagement success story to share? We invite you to showcase your municipality's achievements at the upcoming NSFM Spring Conference!

Why Share Your Story?

Inspire Others: Your success can motivate fellow leaders to enhance youth engagement in their communities.

Learn and Connect: Exchange insights and build valuable connections with peers.

Presentation Opportunity: Selected submissions will be featured on a panel during the conference. The planning committee will select up to three submissions to be featured.

How to Participate: Submit your success story by **March 1** to jwebber@nsfm.ca

Join Us in Shaping the Future: Celebrate your municipality's dedication to youth empowerment and contribute to a vibrant discussion on community building in Nova Scotia. Don't miss this chance to make a difference!

Inquiries: jwebber@nsfm.ca.

More information on the NSFM 2024 Spring Conference coming soon!

Unlock NS's Tourism Potential: Share Your Unique Innovations!

NSFM Spring Conference 2024 – May 8-10

Do you have a groundbreaking tourism initiative that sets your community apart? We are also seeking innovative ideas on tourism in your communities to showcase at the upcoming spring conference. Whether it's an off-the-beaten-path attraction, an initiative to inspire locals to explore their own backyard or a creative event, we want to hear about it!

Why Share Your Idea?

Inspire Others: Your innovative approach could spark new ideas and collaborations among municipalities across Nova Scotia.

Gain Recognition: Selected submissions will have the opportunity to present on a panel at the conference, gaining visibility and recognition for your municipality's tourism efforts.

Contribute to Growth: By sharing your unique innovation, you contribute to the growth and diversification of Nova Scotia's tourism industry.

How to Participate: Submit your idea by **March 1** to jwebber@nsfm.ca. Don't miss this chance to showcase your municipality's ingenuity.

NEWS

[Climate Change Funding Announcement in Antigonish County](#)

[Community Leaders Creating Clean Energy Future](#)
[Halifax Mayor Mike Savage announces he won't re-offer in next election](#)
[Halifax unveils first fleet of electric buses](#)
[More Public Housing for Nova Scotians](#)
[Port Hawkesbury town staff ready for more snow](#)
[Province pushes through Fall River development](#)
[Snow removal budget in CBRM maxed out following February storms](#)
[Town fined \\$100K by Environment Canada for spilling raw sewage into brook](#)

FUNDING

Unleash Fiscal Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The **NSFM Funding Database** is a centralized resource dedicated to our members to help find municipal funding opportunities. A monthly funding update will also be communicated, outlining deadlines and information sessions.

Click [here](#) to see the latest updates on the **Municipal Funding Database**.

FCM's [Green Municipal Fund](#) has revised its programs!

[Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#) Planning and Design Stream [webinars in March](#).

The [Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program](#) is open, apply 18 weeks before the event start date.

Community Health Boards [Wellness Funds](#) will open on March 4.

[Mitacs](#) offers support for municipalities.

Funding to train [Residential Building Officials](#) is available, deadline March 1.

[Civil Forfeiture Grant Program](#) is open for continuous intake.

FCM Funding Opportunities

On February 7, Scott Pearce, president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), announced that its [Green Municipal Fund](#) (GMF) is revising its core funding to enhance its flexibility and adaptability and maximize its impact.

[Click here](#) to find more information.

OEA Community Network Grant

The **Office of Equity and Anti-Racism's (OEA) Community Network Grant** program to address systemic hate, inequity and racism. The grant program is available to registered non-profit organizations and charities.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per project are available, with total program funding of \$250,000 in 2023-24. **The application deadline is March 8, 2024.**

For more information: [OEA Community Network website](#).

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Paint Supply

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. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.** [NSFM Canoe Paint Supply Program information](#)

NSFM/Canoe Drone

The **NSFM/Canoe Drone Program** offers you access to innovative technology that can help you from the air, under water, and from other difficult-to-reach places. Procure uncrewed vehicles that can provide precise data collection, infrastructure inspection, maintenance, mapping, and modelling services with ease. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.** [Learn about the NSFM/Canoe Drone Program](#)

NSFM/Canoe Furniture

With the **NSFM/Canoe Furniture Program**, you get access to furniture designers and manufacturers recognized as experts in their fields, ensuring some of the best commercial furniture available. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.** [NSFM Canoe Furniture Program information](#)

Firefighting Apparatus

Ensuring the safety of your emergency responders is of the utmost importance. The **NSFM/Canoe Firefighting Apparatus Program** provides reliable firetrucks with a streamlined procurement process and competitive rates, offering a dependable solution for your firefighting needs. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.** [Learn more](#)

WEBINARS

Preferred Insurance Rates for Elected Leaders & Staff

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on your **personal home and auto insurance** through BrokerLink's group insurance program? BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to

Eligibility

- Municipal leaders
- Municipal staff
- Family members living in the same household, including spouse/common law spouse, dependents under the age of 21, or 25 (if attending a post secondary institution full time)
- Retirees

This webinar explains how the program works, how access works, and how you can benefit from lower insurance rates and value-added education on insurance products.

- February 28 – 2:00-3:00 pm (AST)
- [Register Here](#)
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

BrokerLink is a program partner of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

Climate Related Funding

December 2023, the Government of Nova Scotia released its Climate Action Plan, outlining 68 measures to help cut greenhouse gas emissions to 53 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Province is seeking feedback and ideas on how to provide better service communities. To participate in a strategic conversation that will go into more depth and challenges and opportunities to strengthen the climate funding process.

[Register for Webinar](#) – March 6 – 10:30-12:30 (AST) by Zoom

Connecting Climate & Biodiversity: Recording

Joanna Eyquem, **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation**, recently presented on the topic of Connecting Climate and Biodiversity. The presentation discussed how municipalities are getting ready for the increase in extreme weather events. You can listen to the webinar [here](#).

The **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation** is an education partner of the **NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program**.

FEATURED

FCM 2024 Budget Submission

FCM has submitted recommendations to the Standing Committee on Finance ahead of Budget 2024. Recommendations are focused on addressing the key issues impacting Canadians today: housing and infrastructure, homelessness, climate change, community well-being and safety, issues specific to our rural and northern regions, and development of a Municipal Growth Framework.

[FCM 2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

Amplifying Climate Awareness

The [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) is a division of Environment and Climate Change Canada and a key partner and contributor to [ClimateData.ca](#). This easy-to-use data portal was developed by the nation's leading climate scientists that highlights the risks and challenges associated with climate change in Canada. Find both historical and future climate data; search by location, sector, or variable to extract and customize climate analysis on this website. Through [ClimateData.ca](#), you can access several outreach channels including social media, a monthly newsletter, regular blog posts, and more. Gain insight into how this data may foster an understanding of these changes and encourage informed discussion on mitigation and adaptation strategies. More information: Frances.Delaney@ec.gc.ca

Healthcare Recruitment & Retention

The Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment (OHPR) two-day conference will bring together community groups and other partners to discuss and learn more about strategies, tactics, and resources available to attract and retain healthcare professionals and explore the factors that influence why a healthcare professional might wish to make their life in Nova Scotia. Express your interest in the conference, stay informed on registration details:

- [Healthcare Recruitment & Retention Community Conference](#)
- April 23 & 24
- Inn on Prince Hotel & Convention Centre, Truro

RESOURCES

[Winter Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

[Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for Atlantic Canadian municipalities



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Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Suite #1304, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331

info@nsfm.ca

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