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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

Future-Focused Municipalities: PIONEERING SOLUTIONS

May 8-10, Inverary Inn, Baddeck, NS

Save the Date and Prepare for an Exceptional Experience!

Join us for the **NSFM 2024 Spring Conference**, featuring keynote speaker **Olympian Brad Gushue**, along with sessions on Youth Engagement, Unique Tourism Strategies, Municipal Climate Change Adaptation, and much more.

Connect with fellow municipal peers and expand your professional network!

Have you secured your accommodations yet? [Click Here Now](#)

Stay tuned for exclusive registration details and further information in your inbox soon.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee

Chaired by Warden Alex Morrison of Annapolis County, this committee advises how supporting municipal autonomy can aid progress toward province-wide goals.

Members needed:

- Currently two open positions for elected officials on the Committee.
- Have an interest in exploring municipal autonomy? Forward your name and a background brief to wpetite@nsfm.ca. **Deadline: March 21.**

General information on Advisory Committees:

- Scheduled meetings four times a year, with additional meetings as necessary.
- Committee reviews advocacy issues generated by NSFM member councils and emerging municipal priorities.
- Terms of Reference are available upon request.
- Learn more about Advisory Committees through regular updates via our website, newsletter, and member communications.

NEWS

[Cape Breton housing vacancy rate hits historic low](#)

[CBRM council approves rare budget with tax cuts and increased spending](#)

[Extreme weather is coming for our homes. Experts weigh in on how to prepare.](#)

[Former tourist bureau property presents 'huge' opportunity for Yarmouth, says mayor](#)

[Natural infrastructure is a solution in the face of drought](#)

[Riders, councillor push back on proposed Halifax Transit fare increase](#)

FUNDING

Unleash Fiscal Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFM Funding Database is a centralized resource is 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.

- [Community Solar Program](#) now open.
- [Seed Funding](#) now open.
- [Tourism Digital Assistance Program](#) now open.
 - Municipalities, businesses, and enterprises are eligible.
- FCM updated the [Green Municipal Fund](#) programs.
 - Community Efficiency Financing [webinar](#) on March 28.
- [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#), design and planning stream is open.
- [Environmental Damages Fund](#) will re-open in March.
- [Green Jobs](#) Internship Program and Science Horizons Internship Program are open.
- Community Health Boards [Wellness Funds](#) are now open.
- Please check out [this list](#) of funding programs with continuous intakes.

(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.

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Fleet Management

Through leveraging the combined purchasing power of all member organizations, the **NSFM/Canoe Fleet Management Program** allows municipalities access to a nationwide network for:

- disposal of old inventory
- fleet assessment
- fuel tracking
- new vehicle additions
- vehicle budgeting guidance and roadside assistance

Offered in collaboration with leading companies in the industry, this program provides solutions for every aspect of your fleet, no matter the size. [Learn more](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

Technology & Procurement: Driving Efficiency and Innovation

Are you following procurement best practices at your organization? Technology has transformed procurement, allowing for improved spend optimization and agility as well as better insights into your suppliers and how they work with your organization. As this technological integration continues to develop, it will help organizations stay competitive and agile. So, how can technology enhance your procurement practices? Read this [article](#) from bids&tenders to find out. Article provided courtesy of Canoe Procurement. This program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

Canoe Procurement is a program partner of NSFM

EMS Supply

The **NSFM/Canoe EMS Supply Program** provides products ranging from defibrillators to powered loaders and stretchers. The program leverages the buying power of all member organizations to provide the solutions needed to equip your organization with the emergency products you need. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support.

NSFM/Canoe = Local. [More information](#)

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 our sector. Their dedicated group insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value.

[Click here](#) to learn about the program benefits and how BrokerLink can provide you with a free, no-obligations insurance quote. Thinking about travelling soon? [Travel Tips & Insurance](#).

Grand Group Giveaway

When a BrokerLink group member requests a quote on car or home insurance between January 1 and December 31, 2024, you will be entered to win 1 of 4 cash prizes of \$5,000. Don't miss your chance to save on insurance and win some cash in the Grand Group Giveaway. Learn more at www.BrokerLink.ca/contest-rules

Contact BrokerLink: Call 1-833-998-3798, or visit BrokerLink.ca/municipalities-NS

BrokerLink is a program partner of NSFM.

WEBINARS

EAP for Elected Officials Program

Do you know what your EAP covers or how to access and navigate the programs and services? This webinar will provide an overview and a live demo of the new website and app. Learn what the Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) offers and how to login, create a profile, navigate resources, and access programs and services.

- March 27
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/e4gTc42XDq>

Host: Melanie Bower, Wellness Coordinator, AMANS

Facilitator: Kerri Farrell, Customer Success Manager, Eastern Canada with TELUS Health

Audience: Elected Officials - NSFM Benefit Plan members

More information: wellness@amans.ca

Municipalities Keep Electric Fleets Charged: Recording

Siemens, a partner in the **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program** presented on how to ensure electric vehicles in your municipal fleet are able to stay charged. Representatives from the City of Toronto shared their experience in adapting their fleets and facilities to support EVs. The recording of the webinar, courtesy of [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#), is available at the following link:

[Keep ElectricFleets Charged - Canoe Procurement Group | LAS](#)

NSRF in partnership with HR OnCall offers HR support for municipal units in Nova Scotia. Get access to a dedicated team of professionals that can help guide you through the challenges of leading people and building an HR infrastructure with HR OnCall. This webinar explains how the program works, how access works, and how you can benefit from HR guidance, expert consultation, reduce risk, gain peace of mind, and save time and money.

- March 20: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm (AST)
- [Register Here](#)
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

Advisors, Vendors, and Education

Are you familiar with the Learning Development Supply Arrangement (LDSA) or Flextrack? Did you know that municipalities can take advantage of the province's standing offer for services in a variety of areas.

Need advice or expertise on topics such as DEI, mindfulness, decision making, or conflict management? The **LDSA** can provide you with a list of course information and available vendors that have an established standing offer with public service bodies.

Flextrack can provide a list of vendors for a variety of service areas which municipalities can contact and award either directly or through a statement of work process. Service areas include learning development, managed business services, and executive search.

Both of these initiatives are approved for use by public service bodies in NS. For more information, please contact staci.macaskill@novascotia.ca or visit [here](#).

FEATURED

Committee Recruitment

Members are needed for the **Financial Management Best Practices Committee** (FMBPC) to review and update current financial management best practices. The FMBPC is responsible for reviewing the existing best practices developed by the committee in prior years and determining a need for any new best practices. Committee meetings will be held once a month, starting in April, and will alternate between in-person and virtual.

- **List of existing best practices:** <https://www.nsmfc.ca/about/best-practices.html>
- **Terms of Reference:** [Click Here](#)

BuildGreen Atlantic Conference & Tradeshow

Wednesday, March 27 at the Halifax Convention Centre

Tuesday, March 26 Pre-Conference Training Day & Building Tours (Limited Space)

Brings together over 450 building industry delegates from across the region to explore the path to net zero buildings in Atlantic Canada. The conference attracts architects, engineers, designers, trades professionals, policymakers, and students.

For Conference Info, Agenda, and Registration links: www.buildgreenatlantic.ca

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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