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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

Unveiling Municipal Priorities

Prepare for an enriching journey into municipal priorities at the forthcoming NSFM Spring Conference. **We are thrilled to announce Olympic Medalist Curler, Brad Gushue, as our keynote speaker**, sharing invaluable insights on leadership and determination.

Key Highlights:

- **Political Landscape Navigation:** Gain actionable strategies from Kristan Hines, Senior VP of Public Affairs at NATIONAL Public Relations, on navigating the political terrain and shaping public policy.
- **Future Initiatives:** Delve into upcoming initiatives from provincial crown corporations impacting municipalities, featuring presentations by notable figures such as David Benoit, President and CEO of Build NS, and Mark Peck, CEO of the Joint Regional Transportation Agency.
- **Success Stories:** Explore success stories in youth engagement, innovative tourism strategies, and municipal climate change adaptation frontrunners.
- **Government Perspectives:** The Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, will provide invaluable insights into the current political initiatives affecting our municipalities.

Stay Informed:

Keep an eye out for the launch of the conference website later this week, which will include registration details. Watch your inbox for more information on securing your spot and taking advantage of the early bird registration rate!

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Collective Bargaining Update

Since November 2022, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) has provided updates to the Contract Management Committee (CMC) on collective bargaining. Summaries are detailed in various Records of Discussion (RODs) listed below:

- CMC ADM Meetings: Nov 22, 2022; Feb 14, 2023 (Ad Hoc); Jun 13, 2023; Nov 14, 2023 (Pending).
- CMC Officials Meetings: May 16, 2023; Oct 4, 2023.
- CMC Governance and Strategic Issues Committee Meetings: Apr 5, 2023; Jul 12, 2023; Feb 28, 2024 (Pending).
- May 8, 2023: Update shared via email.

A recent update from TBS at the Feb 28, 2024 Governance and Strategic Issues Committee meeting noted resolution of pending issues except for pay. Mediation sessions with the National Police Federation (NPF) on Dec 5, 2023, and Feb 10, 2024, led to an impasse, proceeding to binding arbitration by May 13, 2024.

Confidentiality is maintained to preserve negotiation integrity. Though pay rates are undisclosed, a 3.5% non-contractual estimate was acknowledged by CMC members. Increases or decreases from arbitration could vary.

An ad-hoc CMC meeting mid-May will communicate the arbitration decision. For queries, contact Public Safety Canada at: ps.cmcsec-cgesec.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca.

CMC Secretariat

Public Safety Advisory Committee

Chaired by Councillor Fraser Patterson of Victoria County, this committee advises how municipal concerns related to public safety can be collaboratively and effectively addressed.

Key initiatives so far:

- On the recommendation of the committee, the Board has designated the creation of a voluntary **Vulnerable Persons Registry or Registries** as an **advocacy priority for NSFM**.
- Review of membership concerns with Rural Cellphone Coverage During Emergencies.
- More information: [Advisory Committee Overview Document](#).

Municipal Autonomy Advisory Committee

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

[Bill to consolidate Antigonish with nearby county unchanged by committee](#)

[Canadian polling firm files \\$2M defamation lawsuit against Antigonish town, mayor](#)

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

[CBRM grants independence to its port operator, hoping to spark economic development](#)

[Comprehensive Policing Review Update](#)

[How wildfires impact mental health](#)

[MODG confident in local climate change adaption plan](#)

[What are sponge cities and how do they work?](#)

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.
 - Webinar on March 19 & 21.
- [Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund Communities Grant](#) has been added to the database.
- [Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Community Fund](#) is holding a webinar, seeking participation in the program.
- [Tourism Digital Assistance Program](#) now open.
 - Municipalities, businesses, and enterprises are eligible.
- [Seed Funding](#) now open.
- [Telus Community Board Grant](#) has been added to the database.
- [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 Funding Opportunities

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) offers grants for municipal environmental projects. Loans are also available to municipalities at competitive rates and most recipients receive an additional grant of up to 15% of their loan amount. Municipal partners may apply for competitive, long-term financing. [More information](#). Learn more about FCM's [Green Municipal Fund](#) (GMF), which is revising its core funding to enhance its flexibility and adaptability and maximize its impact.

PROGRAMS**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 MRO Supply

Nuts and bolts. Hammers and wrenches. Safety goggles and construction wear. Cleaning supplies and sanitation solutions. Maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) supplies are diverse and widely used throughout nearly every corner of nearly every organization. With great suppliers offering enormous catalogues, the NSFM/Canoe MRO Program gets you access to what you need. [MRO Supply Program - Canoe Procurement Group of Canada](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

Enterprise Fleet Management: Maintaining Electric Vehicles

Enterprise is a partner of the **NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program**. Click [here](#) for fleet management solutions.

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](#).

Audio: Benefits of Natural Infrastructure

Dr. Anabela Bonada, Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation, is interviewed on 580 CFRA and discusses the extreme weather events Canada has been experiencing and what the new norm could be. [Interview with Dr. Anabela Bonada \(youtube.com\)](#)

Auto Insurance Tips: Electric & Hybrids

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.

Thinking about purchasing an electric or hybrid vehicle? [Click here](#) for some useful information on how that impacts your 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 today: Call 1-833-998-3798, or visit BrokerLink.ca/municipalities-NS

BrokerLink is a program partner of NSFM.

WEBINARS

Amplifying Climate Awareness

April 24th, 2024 – 10:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m. AST through zoom

NSFM is pleased to bring you the following Webinar. This Webinar is free to all NSFM and AMANS Members.

Learn from the Canadian Centre for Climate Services and CLIMAtlantic about:

- Climate trends and projections for Nova Scotia
- A few of the many tools, resources, and services available to apply climate data in your own work
- Examples of what others are doing to adapt to climate change

Webinar attendees will have the opportunity to actively participate through interactive polling and a question period.

Presenters:

- Casey Clunas, Policy Analyst, Canadian Centre for Climate Services
- Frances Delaney, Policy Analyst, Canadian Centre for Climate Services
- Alex Cadel, Climate Services Specialist (Nova Scotia), CLIMAtlantic

[REGISTER HERE](#)

HR OnCall Program

NSFM 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

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

FEATURED

Update: Offshore Wind Development

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in NS will be submitting the Interim Report to Ministers on March 23. The Committee and Secretariat continue to gather information and meet with various stakeholders. Following the fall engagement program, the Committee posted a [What We Heard Summary](#), which provides general feedback from the engagement. The first edition of a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document was also posted.

Relevant Links:

- Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings: [Regional Assessment Registry page](#)
- Participation Plans:
 - [Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan](#)
 - [Fisheries Participation Plan](#)
 - [Indigenous Participation Plan](#)
 - [Regional Assessment Registry page](#)
- Public commenting tool: [public commenting tool](#)
- March 31 is the deadline for completing the [Feedback Form](#).

More information, contact: OffshoreWindNS-FoliennExtracotiereNF@aac-aeic.gc.ca

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](#)

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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