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## Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

### NSFM's PODCAST SERIES

#### 🎧 NSFM Podcast Episode 3 Now Live!



**Hear from Cathy Hinton - Mayor Town of Truro**

##### Highlights from this Episode:

This week, we're joined by Mayor Cathy Hinton, the first woman to serve as mayor of Truro. Mayor Hinton shares insights on the impact of her historic election, what it has meant to her personally, and the potential ripple effects for the wider community.

🔊 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

##### Share the Story:

Join the conversation on social media! Use [#NSFMPodcast](#) and [#MunicipalVoices](#) to share your favorite moments and insights.

**Coming next in Episode 4:** Don't miss our conversation with Rod Gilroy, Mayor of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland. Stay tuned!

### ADVOCACY IN ACTION

#### Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee

On January 16, the **Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee** met to discuss the matter of a basic income guarantee. Specifically, the Committee is studying whether NSFM should advocate that the provincial legislature establish an all-party committee to examine a Basic Income Guarantee program for Nova Scotia. This was an advocacy request received from the Town of Wolfville. The Committee will report back to the NSFM Board at a later date.

### 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY-ELECTION

#### Vote in NSFM's 2025 Board of Directors By-Election

Voting for NSFM's 2025 Board of Directors By-Election is underway. We invite those in the Cape Breton Strait & Valley Regions to participate in this important democratic process by casting your ballot online. Your engagement is crucial in shaping the future of our municipalities.

**Voting Period:** ~~ends tomorrow~~ [February 4 at 4:30 PM](#)

### CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

#### Complementary Virtual Code of Conduct Training Session (Not mandatory)

There's still time to register for the virtual non mandatory training session through zoom for those who were not able to attend the in-person sessions and want to experience that content.

**Date:** Monday, February 3rd, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

[REGISTER HERE](#) to receive the link information

Can't make it? There will be a recording of this virtual session available to those who request it.

While this training is not mandatory, it serves as an excellent complement to the mandatory online training module launching in the coming weeks. This session will be interactive, offering a platform to engage directly with the facilitator and address questions you may have.

#### Mandatory Online Training Module:

The mandatory online training module will be launched in the coming weeks and will include a quiz at the end. We will inform the membership of the launch date when confirmed.

Once registered, when the module is ready to launch, participants will receive login details from NSCC to access the module.  
Watch your email for more information.

## NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

### Inn on Prince

The **NSFM 2025 Spring Conference** will be held at the Inn on Prince in Truro, April 30 – May 2. The planning committee is diligently working on an interesting and informative program. Watch the *Monday Memo* for updates. The event will commence the afternoon of April 30, with optional site tours and conclude by noon on May 2. Official conference opening: morning of May 1. We look forward to hosting you in Truro.

- Room block is open
- Room rate: \$139 ++ s/d
- Contact: (902) 895-1651
- Please indicate you are booking into the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities** room block
- When the Inn on Prince is full, a block of rooms is available at the Best Western Glengarry (Room rate \$169 ++ s/d)
- Glengarry contact info: (902) 893-4311 or [Click Here](#)

## NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

### Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM)

**CBRM** is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. This region consists of the following municipality:

- Cape Breton Regional Municipality

The representative on the Board of Directors for this region is:

- Councillor Eldon MacDonald
- [emacdonald@cbrm.ns.ca](mailto:emacdonald@cbrm.ns.ca)

## COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES 2025

### Application Deadline Extended

The application deadline for the following committees has been extended until February 14:

- E-911 Cost Recovery Committee
- Property Valuation Services Corporation
- Municipal Group Insurance Oversight Committee
- [Details here](#)

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### Bridgewater Recognized with FCM's 2024 SCA's

The Town of Bridgewater has been nationally recognized for its leadership in sustainability, winning a **2024 Sustainable Communities Award (SCA)** from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Bridgewater's *Energize Bridgewater* initiative, focused on reducing energy poverty, was honored in the Climate Change Mitigation category.

This innovative program is transforming how low-income households access affordable, sustainable energy solutions, reinforcing Bridgewater's commitment to environmental responsibility and community well-being.

Read more about the **2024 Sustainable Communities Award winners** [Click Here](#)

### Women & Gender Minorities in Local Government

Research is being conducted on the experience of women and gender minorities in local government. The Barrier to Retaining Progressive Women & Gender Minorities Study is interested to learn about local government experiences in NS. This work is funded by Women & Gender Equality Canada through WAGE Canada and partnered with the Centre for Civic Governance.

- Read Phase #1 of the [Local Representation Report](#)
- The Research Team is seeking participants for 1:1 virtual interviews
- Research intended to identify barriers and identify deliverable solutions
- Learn more: <https://localrepresentation.ca/>
- More information? Contact: [trudi@ablazeservices.ca](mailto:trudi@ablazeservices.ca)

## NEWS

[CBRM makes big-ticket snow purchases](#)

[Former mayor pays back \\$17K in personal expenses charged to CBRM credit card](#)

[Halifax municipality orders veteran to leave RV he calls home](#)

[Lunenburg CAO announces resignation](#)

[MODL approves major funding increase for program to support dry wells](#)

[N.B. communities included in border mayors' alliance against tariffs](#)

[Town of Yarmouth to create new veteran banners](#)

## FUNDING

### Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The NSFAM 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.

- [Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Community Fund](#) is open  
Information sessions are available
- [Kal's Reply Fund](#) is open
- [Festival and Community Event Development](#) is open
- [Active Transportation Fund](#) is open
- [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#), Capital Projects stream is open

### FCM Funding Opportunities

FCM has you covered with the right type of project funding. Review the [grant page](#) for funding opportunities available for planning, studies, and pilot projects.

## PROGRAMS

### Traffic Supply Program

The [NSFM/Canoe Traffic Supply Program](#) enables municipalities to partner with major sign suppliers ensuring members get the signage they need at a competitive price and always trade compliant. [ATS Traffic](#) user-friendly variable message signs provide maximum visibility and feature remote programming and fleet management capabilities. These innovative signs are designed to enhance safety, efficiency, and ease of use in your operations. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### Trench Safety

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) offers trench safety systems that can help you avoid costly downtime and ensure compliance with local safety regulations. With the largest fleet of shoring and excavation rental equipment in North America, along with training and certification programs, [United Rentals](#) provides customized solutions to meet all your trench safety needs. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### Office Supply Program

The [NSFM/Canoe Office Supply Program](#) is a one-stop shop for all office supplies. Staples Professional offers products that are Canadian-made and perfect for home or office use. Refer to the [2025 Furniture Guide](#) and [Floorcare Capabilities Guide](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

### Insurance Tips: Worry Free Winter

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. [More information.](#)

We know that the only way to enjoy winter is to embrace it. We have put together some tips to help you have a worry-free winter. Refer to our guide on [Insurance Tips for a Worry Free Winter.](#)

## WEBINARS

### Medavie Blue Cross Orientation for NSFAM Plan Members

Join facilitator Gabrielle Sharpe for a comprehensive half-hour online orientation session where we will explore the many tools and resources available through Medavie Blue Cross, including an overview of the NSFAM health and dental plan. Whether you are new to the plan or just looking to explore all it has to offer, this session will help you make the most of your benefits. You'll leave this webinar with the knowledge you need to confidently manage your health benefits and access the resources that support a healthier, more connected experience. In this session, you will learn:

- Advantages of the Blue Advantage program
- Features and benefits of the Chronic Disease Benefit
- How Connected Care can support your health needs
- How to navigate the Medavie Blue Cross website and mobile app
- Who to contact if you have questions about your health and dental benefits

This webinar will be of interest to municipal employees, elected officials, and wellness champions participating in the NSFAM health and benefits program.

- Tuesday February 25 @ 9:30 am
- [Register here](#)
- More information: [mbower@amans.ca](mailto:mbower@amans.ca)
- Presented by the Municipal Wellness Program

### Disaster Contingency Planning: Recording

**NSFM** and **Canoe Procurement Group** recently hosted a webinar providing insight on preparedness and effective disaster response strategies. The link between droughts, wildfires, and floods was explored. The value of proactive disaster preparedness and simple yet effective measures, including leveraging community resources, proper sandbag filling, storage for flood emergencies, and building key relationships with relevant stakeholders was discussed. Missed the webinar? You can view the webinar [here](#).

### FOIPOP Engagement Session: Recording

Did you miss the recent engagement session presented by **NSFM** on prospective FOIPOP changes? The province is undertaking a review of Nova Scotia's access and privacy legislative framework. The FOIPOP Working Group hosted an online engagement session with elected municipal officials and staff to gauge feedback. Listen to the webinar [here](#).

### The Importance of Adaptation: Recording

Kathryn Bakos, **Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation**, was interviewed on the **Inevitable** podcast, discussing the impacts of climate change, particularly floods, wildfires, and extreme heat and the importance of climate adaptation to address these areas. The podcast covers why adaptation lags behind mitigation, how resilience saves lives and billions of dollars, AI's role in improving mapping and predictions, and actions to reduce wildfire losses and safeguard the vulnerable against deadly heat waves. [Listen](#) to learn of the ways we can use collective effort to adapt to the effects of climate change and build a more resilient communities.

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

## RESOURCES

### [Winter Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**

### [Fall/Winter Atlantic Municipal Magazine](#)

The magazine for the **Atlantic Region of Municipalities**



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