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Monday Memo




NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM PODCAST SERIES

NSFM Podcast: Episode 6 Now Live!



This week, **Mayor Cecil Clarke** of the **Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM)** shares insights on his 2024 return to the mayor's seat after previously serving from 2012 to 2020. He discusses why he wanted to return to municipal politics and how things have changed over the years.

 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

Next in Episode 7: Stay tuned for an engaging conversation with David Mitchell, Mayor of the Town of Bridgewater.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

2025 Provincial Budget

The Province delivered the [2025 Budget](#) at Province House on Tuesday February 18. Here are key highlights of interest to municipalities:

- \$2.1 million to continue work to create planning tools to improve municipal stormwater infrastructure
- \$2.6 million to address unsheltered homelessness, leveraging an equal investment from the federal government's Canada-Nova Scotia Contribution Agreement
- \$25 million increase to stand up Department of Emergency Management and Nova Scotia Guard, strengthening how the province responds to emergencies
- \$22.4 million for Year #2 of the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program, a \$70.4 million multi-year commitment to expand access to cellular services across the Province
- \$700,000 for pre-construction planning and design work to protect the Chignecto Isthmus
- \$1 million to improve access to water resources and flood line mapping
- Supporting municipalities and communities as they develop and implement plans to combat racism and promote equity
- Support for the fishing sector to adapt and prepare for climate change

Canoe Procurement On Tariffs

Like other organizations, Canoe Procurement Group of Canada has been diligently observing the fluidity of the political situation involving the potential imposition of tariffs. We recognize the significant impacts that this could have on our members, suppliers, and association partners, and are continuing to monitor the situation as it evolves.

On February 3 Canada and the United States agreed to delay the imposition of respective tariffs on imported goods. During this time, Canoe will continue to work with suppliers to understand potential implications, navigate the situation as it evolves, and communicate to our members and partners. During this time of uncertainty, we would like to express our gratitude and patience to our approved suppliers, association partners, and members for the positive relationships we have built as we continue to navigate this situation.

In all Canoe actions, ensuring compliance with CETA, CFTA, and other regional trade agreements is paramount. Rest assured; by connecting with the Canoe team, members will continue to have access to preferential pricing on trade-compliant purchasing programs that leverage the collective buying power of all involved. More information: andy@canoeprocurement.ca

NSFM has been actively engaged in the issue of tariffs and have reached out to our procurement partners for information that may be of benefit to members.

NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE



THE Changing Landscape OF Municipalities

NSFM Spring Conference
April 30 - May 2, 2025 • Truro, NS

The NSFM 2025 Spring Conference will be held at the Inn on Prince in Truro from April 30 – May 2. The program is currently being finalized with sessions focusing on Climate Change Frontrunners, Creative Approaches to Citizen Engagement, Navigating Social Media, Coastal Protection, Transforming Surplus Infrastructure into Housing, and much more.

The event will begin April 30 (afternoon), with optional site tours, and conclude May 2 (noon). The official opening will be the morning of May 1. Watch the *Monday Memo* and NSFM website for updates and registration information as the program gets confirmed. We look forward to hosting you in Truro. Click [HERE](#) for hotel information.

NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

Valley Region

The Valley Region is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. This region consists of the following municipalities:

- Municipality of Kings
- Municipality of the County of Annapolis
- Town of Annapolis Royal
- Town of Berwick
- Town of Kentville
- Town of Middleton
- Town of Wolfville
- West Hants Regional Municipality

The representatives on the **Board of Directors** for this region are:

- **Councillor Christina Sappington** councillor.sappington@countyofkings.ca
- **Councillor Adele MacDonald** amacdonald@annapolisroyal.com

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Committee Membership Needed

The **Municipal Group Insurance Oversight Committee** is seeking two elected officials. This Committee provides a forum for stakeholders to come together, explore issues and challenges, identify opportunities for improvement, and make recommendations around NSFM's insurance program for commercial, property, and D&O insurance.

- Committee meets five times a year
- All meetings are virtual

Have an interest in this Committee? Please forward your name and a background brief to imorrison@nsfm.ca **Deadline:** March 7

NEWS

[Argyle hosting public meeting on Tusket Connection Trail](#)
[Bridgewater public meeting set for proposed housing development](#)
[Gov bill would give sweeping power over transportation to minister](#)
[Halifax aquarium set to open this fall seeks municipal funds](#)
[Halifax Budget Process Begins with Fire and Police Departments](#)
[How to disaster-proof your home and lower your insurance rate](#)
[Ingonish sewage system will help with growing residential development](#)
[Interprovincial trade barriers that are costing consumers more money](#)
[Maritime power companies team up to tackle climate change](#)
[Richmond County wants post-fire assessment relief to extend provincewide](#)
[Which Canadian Cities Are Most Exposed to Trump's Tariffs?](#)

FUNDING

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**.

- [AMANS Municipal Wellness Grants](#) open for elected officials and staff
- [Clean Fuels Fund 2.0](#) open
- [EcoAction](#) Fund
 - Stream 1 is open (municipalities ineligible, encouraged to partner)
 - Stream 2 for municipalities will open in the coming weeks
- [Ship and Rail Compensation Canada](#) funding programs added to the database

PROGRAMS

NSFM/Canoe Supplier List: Updated

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the latest list of [new suppliers and renewed contracts](#). Approved suppliers are selected through an open RFP process that follows a successful proposal evaluation and contract award. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Rapid Response Vehicles

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides the [FMS Vehicles & Supply Program](#). Learn how [Expertec's innovative rapid response vehicles](#) are transforming emergency services for municipalities. These state-of-the-art vehicles are designed to improve response times and operational efficiency, ensuring communities receive swift and effective assistance during emergencies.

Flooring

The [NSFM/Canoe Flooring Program](#) works with suppliers to help you find the best options for each of your spaces: rugs, carpet tiles, luxury vinyl flooring, and more. With preferred pricing and the tendering process already completed on your behalf, just pick your design. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Insurance Tips: Understanding Your Policy

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.](#)

Reviewing and understanding an insurance contract is very important. As an insured, you should have a clear grasp on how your insurance policies work and what they contain. Whether buying personal or business insurance, there are a few key reasons why understanding your policy is necessary. Please refer to our [Tips on Deciphering Your Insurance Policy](#).

WEBINARS

Medavie Blue Cross Orientation for NSFM 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 NSFM health and dental plan. This webinar will be of interest to municipal employees, elected officials, and wellness champions participating in the NSFM health and benefits program.

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

TELUS Health EAP Orientation Session

We typically have the skills to manage our everyday lives but sometimes life throws us a curve ball where we or our family members could use a bit of extra support. Your TELUS Health Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can help. This one-hour webinar will provide an overview of EAP services and a live demo of the website and app. This webinar will be of interest to municipal employees, elected officials, and wellness champions participating in the NSFM health and benefits program.

- Thursday February 27 @ 9:30 am
- [Register here](#)
- More information: mbower@amans.ca
- Presented by the Municipal Wellness Program

Contract & Procurement Fraud: Recording

Did you miss the recent session presented by the **NSFM Municipal Group Insurance Program** on Contract & Procurement Fraud? The webinar, presented by Régina MacInnis and Rey Richards from the province's Internal Audit Centre discussed the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, prevent, and mitigate fraudulent activities within operational realities. Access the [slide deck](#) and listen to the [webinar](#).

Construction Procurement: Recording

Did you miss the recent webinar on **Cutting Edge Construction Procurement** presented by **NSFM/Canoe**, **Gordian**, and the **Institute for Public Procurement**? The session discussed the latest trends and challenges in Canadian construction procurement. Topics included best practices to drive efficiency and value in every project, insights into optimizing procurement strategies, and real-world expertise from leaders in the field. Access the [slide deck](#) and [webinar recording](#).

RESOURCES

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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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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