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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2025

What's Next for Canada?

- **Webinar:** February 19 @ 4:00-5:00 pm Online
- Complimentary, open to all elected and appointed municipal officials
- Click [HERE](#) to register

This presentation will examine how renewed trade uncertainty with the US is impacting the Canadian economy, the outlook for interest rates, and how the outlook for Nova Scotia will be impacted. It also examines how recent changes to immigration policy, and a potential change in federal government, could impact the national and local economies. Finally, it discusses whether the US economy can continue to outperform others, or whether a deceleration could occur which will weaken the US\$ and by extension bring a rebound in the loonie.

Presenter: Andrew Grantham, Executive Director and Senior Economist, Economics, Capital Markets, CIBC.



Andrew Grantham is a Senior Economist with CIBC, with a wide range of experience in different areas of economic and financial market forecasting. Joining CIBC in 2011, he initially focused on the US and international outlook and its implications for foreign exchange and fixed income markets. More recently, he has taken over responsibility for the Canadian provincial outlook. He helped CIBC win MarketWatch's monthly contest for US forecasters five times and is regularly quoted by the print and electronic media. Prior to 2011, Andrew worked in London, England, for one of the UK's largest banks. He earned a Master's degree in Economics from the University of York, England.

NSFM's PODCAST SERIES

 **NSFM Podcast Episode 5 Now Live!**



This week, Mayor Nancy Dicks of the Town of New Glasgow discusses the pressing issue of affordable housing in her community. She shares how her council is working to address this challenge and explores what could make the situation easier for municipalities across the province.

🔊 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

Coming next in Episode 6: Stay tuned for an engaging discussion with Cecil Clarke, Mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM).

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Enhancing Rural Cell Coverage for Emergencies

NSFM continues to advocate for improved rural cellular coverage as a critical component of emergency preparedness. In a recent letter to Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management, NSFM reaffirmed the importance of engaging municipalities in the ongoing *Cellular for Nova Scotia Program*.

Reliable cellular service is essential for public safety, particularly in rural communities where communication gaps can hinder emergency response. NSFM commended the provincial government's investment in expanding coverage and emphasized that municipalities, with their local expertise and connections, should be engaged as partners in this work.

Additionally, NSFM urged Minister Masland to proclaim amendments to the *Emergency Management Act* (Bill 198), which would require telecommunications providers to establish annual emergency response plans and ensure accountability during crises.

As this issue remains a priority for NSFM, we will continue to advocate for meaningful municipal involvement in shaping emergency telecommunications policy.

NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 30–May 2 – Inn on Prince, Truro, NS

The Changing Landscape of Municipalities

The NSFM 2025 Spring Conference will be held at the Inn on Prince in Truro, NS, from April 30–May 2. The planning committee is diligently working on an interesting and informative program for you with sessions focusing on the Economic Outlook; Climate Change Frontrunners; Creative Approaches to Citizen Engagement; Navigating Social Media; Coastal Protection and much more. Watch the *Monday Memo* for updates and registration information as the program gets confirmed. We look forward to hosting you in Truro. The event will begin in the afternoon of April 30 with optional site tours and conclude by noon on May 2. The official opening will be the morning of May 1.

Click [HERE](#) for hotel information.

NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

The **Southwestern Shore** is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. This region consists of the following municipalities:

- District of Argyle
- District of Barrington
- District of Clare
- District of Digby
- District of Shelburne
- District of Yarmouth
- Town of Yarmouth
- Town of Digby
- Town of Clark's Harbour
- Town of Shelburne
- Town of Lockeport

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

Councillor Belle Hatfield belle.hatfield@townofyarmouth.ca

Councillor Phil Mooney phil@munyarmouth.ca

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

NSFM President Featured in *Business Voice* Cover Story

NSFM President Pam Mood is featured in the cover story of the *Business Voice* Magazine's February 2025 issue, published by the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. Titled *Economic Outlook: Local Officials and Business Owners on Finding Unity in Uncertain Times*, the feature explores how municipal leaders and the business

Message from Canoe Procurement Re: 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 US 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.

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.

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](#).

NEWS

[BMO reps deny visit to Port Hawkesbury, council to decide next steps on closure](#)

[Canada's Border Patrol Problem Has Been Solved](#)

[Funding Will Help Nova Scotians Access Food](#)

[Halifax-area man ordered to leave RV can stay — for now](#)

[Halifax council approves motion to look at moving away from X](#)

[‘It’s scary,’ Yarmouth mayor on potential tariff impacts to ‘CAT’ ferry](#)

[Lunenburg to Hold Public Meetings on Daycare & Development Plans](#)

[Minister rejects efforts by West Hants to limit where wind turbines can be built](#)

[Municipalities loan \\$1.6M to operators of Truro's Rath centre in dispute with CRA](#)

[Premier's letter to Nova Scotians: more oversold and underwhelming energy projects](#)

[Threat of U.S. tariffs will impact municipal budget planning, says CBRM mayor](#)

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**.

- Funding for [war memorials](#) through Veterans Affairs Canada is open.
 - To commemorate World War II's 80th anniversary, the Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation is offering to help municipalities wishing to honour their fallen soldiers. [Please consider joining this initiative](#)
- [Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund - Emission Reductions Intake](#) will close February 28th, 2025
- [AMANS Municipal Wellness Grants](#) is open. For elected officials and staff!
- [Canada Post Community Foundation](#) is open
- [Tree Canada](#) programs have been updated on the database
- Community funding special mentions (municipalities not eligible): [Community Food Access & Literacy Fund](#), [Tires for Good](#), [Security Infrastructure Program](#), [Community Facility Improvement Program](#)

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.

Equipment Rental

The [NSFM/Canoe Equipment Rental Program](#) gives you access to cost-effective ways to access a huge variety of tools. With a network of top suppliers and an extensive catalogue including everything from aerial lifts and power generators to pickup trucks and earthmoving vehicles, there is truly something for every need. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support.

NSFM/Canoe = Local.

Fuel & Lubricants

With a nationwide network of providers, the [NSFM/Canoe Lubricant Program](#) provides you with unparalleled cost-effectiveness, detailed consumption information, convenient account management, and advanced security features, all designed to enhance your operational efficiency. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe Keeps Your Fleet Moving

Did you know that NSFM/Canoe Procurement help lower maintenance costs by providing products with exceptional mileage performance at competitive prices? [NSFM/Canoe Tire Program](#) partners with [Michelin](#) to make your budget go further and to lower maintenance costs for municipal units. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Pet Insurance

Did you know that you can receive exclusive insurance discounts on **pet insurance** through BrokerLink's group insurance program? BrokerLink is proud to provide quality insurance products, expertise, and solutions to our sector. Their dedicated group of insurance advisors will compare your coverage options and help get you the most comprehensive coverage at the best value. Did you know that over the past two years there has been an increase in **pet ownership**? Learn more about [pet insurance](#) and refer to tips on how to ensure your pets are safe and living their best life.

[Click here](#) to learn about the program benefits and how BrokerLink can provide you with a **free, no obligations insurance quote.**

Park'N Fly Discount

The **NSFM/Park'N Fly Discount Program** is available for elected municipal leaders and municipal staff within the broader municipal sector. Under this program, you can receive an exclusive discount on the services of Park'N Fly for business or leisure travel at their Halifax Stanfield International Airport location and at six other locations across Canada. Reserve your next stay and save. Plus, earn valuable Aeroplan points on every eligible stay. **Park'N Fly offers a discount of up to 20% on airport parking.** [More information.](#)

WEBINARS

Budget-Friendly Healthy Eating: Tips for Busy Employees

March is **Nutrition Month**, and we are excited to offer this informative free one-hour online webinar, facilitated by local celebrity and CTV Morning Live dietitian Laurie Barker Jackman. If rising food costs have you concerned, join us to learn practical ways to save money while still maintaining good nutrition.

In this session, you will:

- Learn specific tips for grocery shopping that can help you save money
- Learn how to use unit pricing to find better value
- Discover strategies for reducing food waste by properly storing produce

Whether feeding a family or just yourself, this session will equip you with the tools to eat healthier while saving time and money.

- Wednesday March 5 @ 11 am
- [Register HERE](#)
- More information: mbower@amans.ca
- Presented by the Municipal Wellness Program

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. 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. Topics:

- 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 NSFM health and benefits program.

- Tuesday February 25 @ 9:30 am
- [Register here](#)

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. Topics:

- What the EAP offers
- How to navigate the resources and access to online programs and services
- How to log in and create your profile
- More information: [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) - The Municipal Wellness Program](#)

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

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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