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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM's PODCAST SERIES

🎧 NSFM Podcast Episode 4 Now Live!



Episode 4 of NSFM's Podcast Series is now available!

This week, Mayor Rod Gilroy of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland discusses the recently renewed fire protection services agreement with nearby Amherst. Learn how this mutually beneficial decision enhances safety and support for residents in surrounding communities.

🔊 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

Coming next in Episode 5: Stay tuned for an insightful conversation with Nancy Dicks, Mayor of the Town of New Glasgow.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Public Safety Committee

The Public Safety Committee has been actively addressing key emergency preparedness and public safety concerns. Recent efforts include advocating for voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registries and improved rural cellular service as NSFM priorities, calling on the Minister to proclaim regulations recognizing telecommunication companies as critical service providers, and reviewing joint letters from members on emergency response improvements. The Committee also received a presentation from Build Nova Scotia on plans to expand cellular coverage. Discussions on the Committee's Statement of Municipal Interest are ongoing, with the next meeting set for February 12.

NSFM 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY-ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

NSFM is pleased to announce the results of the **2025 Board of Directors By-Election** for the **Cape Breton Strait and Valley electoral regions**. We extend our congratulations to the successful candidates and sincerely thank all nominees for their dedication and commitment to serving Nova Scotia's municipalities.

Elected Representatives:

- **Cape Breton Strait (Term until November 2025):** Deputy Warden John Dunbar of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- **Valley (Term until November 2025):** Councillor Adele (Addie) MacDonald of the Town of Annapolis Royal
- **Valley (Term until November 2026):** Councillor Christina Sappington of the Municipality of the County of Kings

We look forward to working alongside our newly elected representatives to advance municipal priorities and strengthen our communities. Thank you to all members who participated in the election process and contributed to shaping the future of NSFM.

NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

April 30 – May 2 at the Inn on Prince, Truro

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

The room block is open for booking at the Inn on Prince. Room rate of \$139 ++ s/d 902-895-1651

Please indicate you are booking into the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities room block.

NSFM REGIONAL PROFILE

The **Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)** is one of seven regions represented on the NSFM Board. This region consists of the following municipality:

- Halifax Regional Municipality

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

Councillor Sam Austin sam.austin@halifax.ca

Councillor John Young john.young@halifax.ca

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES 2025

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 jmorrison@nsfm.ca **Deadline: February 14**

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

FCM Seeking Atlantic Canada Representative for GMF Council

FCM is accepting applications for a seat on the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Council. They are looking for one elected municipal official from Atlantic Canada with a passion for sustainability to help guide the allocation of \$2.4 billion in funding for impactful projects. Applications close February 23, 2025. **Apply today!** [Click Here](#)

NEWS

[CBRM election campaign donations create perception of conflict of interest](#)
[Halifax council 'back to the drawing board' about future of Windsor Street Exchange](#)
[HRM receives extended deadline for Minimum Planning Regulations](#)
[Lunenburg faces \\$6M shortfall for wastewater upgrades](#)
[No answers on Reeves St in Port Hawkesbury as talks continue with Public Works](#)
[Workshops to focus on Yarmouth's future](#)

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.

Keep Your Fleet Moving

The [NSFM/Canoe Auto Parts Program](#) partners with NAPA Auto Parts to make your budget go further. NAPA has programs designed for both small and large fleet customers with the most extensive coverage in the automotive aftermarket. A national team of fleet specialists are available to support you and your fleet with inventory support, cost analysis, and reporting. Refer to the latest promotions from [NAPA](#). The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Building Solutions

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) partners with a diverse range of suppliers. [Gordian](#), an approved supplier, is a leading provider of building solutions. Discover how Gordian's [Construction Cost Insights Report](#) can help you navigate the ever-evolving construction industry. This comprehensive report highlights the latest cost trends for materials like steel, lumber, and copper, with projections for 2025. Learn how factors like geopolitical events, labour market shifts, and sustainability efforts are shaping the future of construction. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply

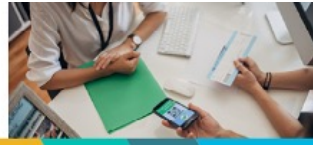
Recreation spaces knit communities together. Whether building a new playground, developing a spray park, creating outdoor fitness options, or even upgrading an existing play space, the [NSFM/Canoe Playground Supply Program](#) can help find quality products and competitive prices for every municipal unit. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

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. 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](#).



Travel Insurance 101



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

What does the Economic Outlook look like for Canada

When: February 19th – 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. through zoom

This presentation will examine how renewed trade uncertainty with the US is impacting the Canadian economy and 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 out perform others, or whether a deceleration could be seen 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.



with CIBC, with a wide range of experience in different areas of economic and financial market forecasting. Joining 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. Since joining, 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 joining CIBC in 2011, Andrew worked in London, England, for one of the UK's largest banks. He gained a Master's degree in Economics from the University of York, England.

This complimentary webinar is open to all municipally elected and appointed officials.

Click [HERE](#) to register to receive the zoom link.

Medavie Blue Cross Orientation for NSFМ 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 NSFМ health and dental plan. You will 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 NSFМ 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 Employee Assistance Program (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 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 NSFМ health and benefits program.

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

Eating Healthier on a Budget: Practical 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

[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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