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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES




NSFM PODCAST SERIES

NSFM Podcast Episode 9 Now Live!



This week, **Mayor Mike Trinacty of the Town of Berwick** discusses the community's proactive leadership in green energy initiatives. From harnessing wind power to the creation of a solar garden and enhancing the town's hydro facility, Berwick is setting a sustainable example for municipalities across Nova Scotia.

 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

Don't miss final podcast in this series Episode 10: Featuring our conversation with Warden James Fuller of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's.

NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE



Shape the Networking Café Discussions @ Spring Conference

NSFM's Spring Conference, April 30– May 2 in Truro, will feature a **Networking Café**, a relaxed space for members to connect and discuss key municipal topics. These informal discussion tables will provide an opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas, and explore challenges with fellow municipal leaders.

We want to hear from you! What topics would you like to see on the tables? Whether it's housing, climate adaptation, infrastructure, or another municipal issue, your input will help shape the conversations.

Send your topic suggestions to **Judy Webber, Director of Events and Member Development**, at jwebber@nsfm.ca by **March 31**. Let us know what matters most to you!

Don't miss out on this year's spring conference – access the program and registration [HERE](#).

MUNICIPAL CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Online Module Registration For Elected Officials

As indicated in a direct email to all elected officials and village commissioners on March 13, the mandatory Code of Conduct Online Module for Elected Officials is now open for registration. Completing this module is essential to understand the Code of Conduct, with upcoming provincial regulations mandating completion within 30 days. View that full email [Click Here](#)

Registration Process:

-
2. **Account Setup:** The first NSCC email will provide your student ID and temporary password. Follow the instructions to reset your password using the provided NSCC email address.
 - For assistance, contact the Technology Service Desk at 1-866-898-4357.
3. **Access Brightspace:** A second NSCC email will guide you in logging into Brightspace, NSCC's online learning platform. Use your NSCC ID and password. Ignore any references to textbooks.

For login or password issues, contact the Technology Service Desk at 1-866-898-4357 or email beth.mccormack@nsc.ca (include your NSCC student ID#).

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Offshore Renewable Energy Prohibition – Georges Bank

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator (CNSOER) has issued a **Prohibition Order** preventing offshore renewable energy projects in the **Georges Bank Prohibition Area** from **March 7, 2025, to December 31, 2032**. This follows joint direction from federal and provincial energy ministers.

- ◆ [Read the Ministers' News Release](#)
- ◆ [Read the CNSOER's News Release](#)

For more information, contact **Colleen Fiske** at info@cnsoer.ca

What We Heard: NSFM Survey on Municipal Police Agencies

NSFM has released our *What We Heard* report that shares findings from a 2024 survey on municipal police agencies. The survey, sent to 11 municipalities with their own police services or those of another municipality, achieved a **91% response rate**, offering a strong representation of municipal perspectives.

This initiative is particularly timely as Nova Scotia undergoes a **Provincial Police Review**, establishes **new policing standards**, and continues **renegotiations on the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange**. The report highlights **opportunities, challenges, and shared priorities** among municipalities regarding local policing.

For more details, visit [Click Here](#).

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

AMANS Qualified List of Investigators – Municipal Code of Conduct

AMANS has released a list of 10 qualified investigators vetted through its RFQ process. Municipalities may use this list but must verify investigator availability and handle their own contracts. AMANS has not entered into agreements with any listed investigators. [Click Here to View List](#)

For more details contact David Campbell at dcampbell@amans.ca.

Update on Tariffs from Canoe Procurement

Like other organizations, [Canoe Procurement Group of Canada](#) has been diligently observing the fluidity of the political situation involving the potential imposition of tariffs. Canoe Procurement and NSFM recognize the significant impact that this could have on members and suppliers and are continuing to monitor the situation as it evolves. Read the latest update from Canoe [here](#).

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.

Housing Design Catalogue

The [Housing Design Catalogue](#) is a collection of standardized housing designs that will help accelerate home construction and development across Canada. This is part of [Canada's Housing Plan](#), offering practical and adaptable solutions to meet today's housing needs. The catalogue features:

- 50 regional home designs that support gentle density
- 2D and 3D representations showcasing accessibility, energy efficiency, and climate resilience
- PDF summaries to help homeowners, builders, and municipalities get started

Later in 2025, the downloadable architectural design package will be released, including:

- Architectural and engineering drawings
- Technical guidance to support builders
- Energy modeling guidance and performance report
- Construction cost summary
- Alternate floor plans for different accessibility needs

More information? Contact udushime@cmhc-schl.gc.ca

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

- 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 28**

NEWS

[U.S. tariffs: a new FCM mission in Washington](#)
[CBRM considering task force to get Sydney harbour ready for offshore wind industry](#)
[CBRM now in a low-risk category for borrowing after paying off debt](#)
[Halifax to receive \\$55M to upgrade, replace public transit infrastructure](#)
[Municipalities call for changes to 'tremendously concerning' N.S. transportation bill](#)
[NSFM concerned with wording of provincial transportation Bill](#)
[New councillor for Municipality of the District of Yarmouth](#)
[Pictou to let NSFM to Respond to Gov't's Proposal of Resource Extraction](#)
[Region of Queens dismisses Municipal Clerk Pam Lovelace](#)
[Trade war will 'hurt us both,' Canadian delegation tells American municipal leaders](#)

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**.

- [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#) is accepting municipal projects for their free service!
 - Information session March 18, register [here](#)
- [Provincial Capital Assistance Program](#) is open
- [Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program](#) is open
- [The Municipal Innovation Program](#) is open
- [Education and awareness project funding – EV Charging and Clean Fuels](#) is open
- [Tourism Digital Assistance Program](#) is open
- [EcoAction Stream 2](#) is open
- [Energy Innovation Program, Clean Fuels](#) is open for EOI
 - Includes biofuels produced from organic industrial waste (e.g. sludge from a sewage treatment facility) and source-separated organic municipal solid waste
- [Green Jobs Internship Program](#) is open for employer applications
- [Green Jobs Initiative](#) is open
- [Museums Assistance Program, Canada-France Agreement](#) is open
- [Jays Care Program](#) 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

Equipment Rental Program

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.**

Trench Safety

The [NSFM/Canoe Road & Trench Safety 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.**

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](#)

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

WEBINARS

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](#).

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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