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Monday Memo

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM PODCAST SERIES

🎧 Final Episode of NSFM Podcast Series Now Live!



In Episode 10, **Warden James Fuller of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's** shares valuable insights on the challenges of ensuring timely waste disposal across communities of all sizes. He discusses the importance of communication between rural and urban municipalities and highlights the vital role of public service in keeping communities functioning smoothly.

🎧 Listen now: [Click Here](#)

Thank you for following our podcast journey! We hope you've enjoyed hearing from municipal leaders across Nova Scotia and learning about the impactful work happening at the local level.

NSFM 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

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

A Must-Attend Event for Municipal Leaders

NSFM's Spring Conference is your opportunity to gain practical tools, stay informed on key legislation, and connect with municipal leaders from across Nova Scotia.

Why attend an NSFM Event?

Access Timely, Municipal-Focused Content – Sessions are designed to address real challenges and opportunities facing municipalities today.

Stay Ahead of Emerging Trends – Learn about policies, best practices, and innovations shaping municipal governance.

Enhance Leadership & Decision-Making – Strengthen your ability to navigate challenges and lead effectively.

Network with Peers & Experts – Engage with fellow elected officials, policy makers, and industry professionals.

Ensure Your Municipality's Voice is Heard – Be part of the conversations that shape municipal priorities.

Don't miss this cost-effective opportunity for professional development and collaboration. [Register today!](#)

NSFM extends thanks to your Spring Conference Sponsors:

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CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

For Elected Officials: Mandatory Online Module Registration

Deadline for completion of the module – April 30, 2025

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 and to meet the provincial regulations mandating completion by April 30, 2025.

View the March 13 registration email [HERE](#).

If you've not already done so – here is the 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

Equity & Community Wellbeing Committee

The Committee met on March 20. The Committee discussed the Basic Income Guarantee Framework Review as part of its study of 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. As well, the Committee heard a presentation from Jenna MacQueen and Rebecca Todd on the Nova Scotia Mental Health Survey, being conducted by NS Health. The survey launches in the coming weeks.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Built for Canada Program

In the midst of a rapidly changing trade landscape, [Canoe Procurement Group of Canada](#) remains a steady partner for the public sector. As a Canadian not-for-profit built by the public sector, for the public sector, we understand that you may have questions about your procurement strategy. Our goal is to support and protect the interests of the broader municipal sector by providing flexible, compliant contracts that connect you with the right products and suppliers for your needs.

Uncertainty and the changing climate of the tariff discussion has made a targeted response challenging. One thing we know for sure is that the tariffs will impact budgets, and the **Buy Canadian** movement is and will be at the forefront of purchasing decisions moving forward. We are confident that using the [Canoe Procurement Group of Canada](#) standing offer contracts now becomes a more effective tool for municipalities, to evaluate suppliers and establish the best value for their organization to prioritize the need for product availability and local parts and service requirements.

Please read about our new [Built for Canada](#) program and how the NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program is [Helping you navigate a shifting trade landscape](#)

- 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.

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.

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 28**

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

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

- 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

Accessibility Directorate Update

The [Accessibility Directorate](#) works collaboratively with other departments and organizations to share news, events, resources, and opportunities. The province has approved the [Built Environment Accessibility Standard](#), the first of six accessibility standards that the province has committed to enacting as regulations under the *Accessibility Act*.

- The standard is focused on accessibility of outdoor and recreational spaces
- Introduces technical design requirements for new and redeveloped infrastructure starting April 1, 2026, as well as new accessibility planning requirements which are due April 1, 2026
- Accessibility of buildings has been addressed through [amendments to the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations](#)
- More information: accessibility@novascotia.ca

NEWS

[Antigonish, Pictou library services in danger with huge budget concerns](#)

[Cape Breton council approves \\$321M budget for 2025-2026](#)

[Lunenburg monitoring tariff impacts, no municipal policy changes made](#)

[Municipality continues pothole repairs: expect traffic delays](#)

[NSFM President Pam Mood talks tariffs](#)

[Ottawa implores court not to answer Chignecto Isthmus question](#)

[President Mood Goes To Washington](#)

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**.

- [Affordable Housing and Innovation Fund](#) is open
- Federal [Incentives for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles](#) have been added to the database
- [Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund](#) is open
- [Green Freight Program](#), stream 2 is open
- [Climate Ready Infrastructure Service](#) is accepting municipal projects for their free service
- [Provincial Capital Assistance Program](#) is open
- [Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program](#) is open
- [Municipal Innovation 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

NEW: Building Supplies

We are excited to announce the launch of the [NSFM/Canoe Building Supplies Program](#). This program connects municipal units with **Canadian-owned Home Hardware Building Centres (HHBC)** and **Home Building Centres (HBC)** across Canada, providing high-quality materials, from fencing and insulation to drywall, roofing, and hardware, all at competitive, member-exclusive pricing. Whether tackling routine maintenance or large-scale projects, members can streamline procurement while keeping investments local. **NSFM/Canoe = Local**.

NSFM/Canoe Supplier List: Updated

[NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) provides a diverse range of procurement options for our members. View the latest list of [new and renewed contracts for March](#). 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**.

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. The Staples Professional team would like to reaffirm their commitment as an independent **Canadian** company, headquartered in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Refer to their message to you [here](#). Refer to their [2025 Furniture Guide](#) and [Floorcare](#)

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 of 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](#).

Park'N Fly Discount Program

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

Public Procurement: Recording

NSFM and **Canoe Procurement Group** recently hosted a webinar highlighting the importance of a well-structured procurement policy and regular training on procurement efficiency. Did you miss this event designed for municipal staff involved in seeking enhanced procurement compliance, efficiency, and innovation? 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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