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Monday Memo



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM 2026 FALL CONFERENCE



STRONGER TOGETHER:
LEADERSHIP, TRUST &
TRANSFORMATION

2026 NSFM CONFERENCE
Nov 3 - 6 · Halifax, NS

The NSFM Conference Nov 3 – 6 at the Westin Hotel in Halifax
(As previously distributed by Direct Mail on July 9)

Book your accommodations now!

The full program and registration will be available when the conference website launches later this summer. In the meantime, here are some key dates to help with accommodations planning:

- **Tuesday, November 3:** possible pre-conference session tbc (3:00–5:00 p.m.); Meet and Greet Reception (7:00 p.m.)
- **Wednesday, November 4:** Conference officially opens in the morning @ 8:30 a.m. - sessions until 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, November 5:** Sessions 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. - banquet that evening
- **Friday, November 6:** Conference concludes at noon

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

A Message from NS Power: Update on Customer Billing

As billing operations continue to return to normal, we are committed to providing updates as new information is shared with customers and as supports continue to evolve.

Since April 2025, Nova Scotia Power has not charged late fees on overdue accounts. During that period, we **committed to providing customers with at least 60 days' notice** before late fees returned and ensuring they had time, information, and options to address outstanding balances. Customers will receive communications that Nova Scotia Power will be returning to regular **late fee activity on overdue balances starting October 1, 2026**.

We know changes like these can lead to questions from your constituents. We recognize the critical role you play in supporting communities across Nova Scotia and wanted to share this information with you in advance.

What constituents may ask about:

- **Late fees** on overdue balances **return on October 1, 2026**.
- **Interest-free payment plans remain available** for customers who need support managing outstanding balances.
- Customers can contact **Customer Care** at **1-800-428-6230** or visit nspower.ca/billing for information on available supports and payment options.
- Nova Scotia Power is **launching a \$500,000 Community Energy Fund** through its [Grassroots Grants Program](#) to provide additional bill assistance and affordability supports through trusted community organizations. More details to come.
- **As of March 31, 2026, all meter connections have been restored**, and customers are once again receiving bills based on their actual electricity usage rather than estimates. Since that time, we have continued to work directly with customers to help them understand their balances, answer billing questions, and access payment solutions that meet their individual circumstances.

nspower.ca/our-commitments.

Our focus continues to be on providing customers with the information, support, and flexible options they need as operations return to normal.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out. Emily MacNeil, Senior Manager Government Relations emily.macneil@nspower.ca



Committee Membership Needed

The **Audit & Finance Committee** is seeking one elected official with accounting expertise to serve on the Committee. This Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibility by providing oversight regarding the integrity of financial reporting.

- Two-year term
- 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: August 7

Nova Scotia Investing in Fire Service Training and Preparedness

The Province is investing in training, equipment and wildfire preparedness to strengthen and modernize fire services across Nova Scotia. Investments include new mobile burn units and propane training props, expanded firefighter and Incident Command training, and structure protection units to support wildfire response efforts.

[Read the full government bulletin for details.](#)

Survey: Coastal Policy Decision Making Guide

confidence on coastal issues such as flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. We are seeking your input in a survey that gathers your experience and requirements so the guide is genuinely useful, whether your municipality is just getting started or building on work already underway. There is an option to share your contact details if interested in a follow-up workshop.

- Results will only be reported in aggregate form
- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
- [Access survey here](#)
- Survey deadline: July 31
- More information: coastal@nsfm.ca

NSFM Employment Opportunity

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is hiring. Please see below for the following job opportunity. Kindly circulate this posting in your networks.

- Position: Municipal Wellness Program Coordinator
- Posting Detail: [Click here](#)

NSFM Listserv: Coming Soon...Sign Up Now!

This summer, NSFM will launch a new listserv designed to connect and support Nova Scotia's broader municipal sector. Participation is **free** and **open** to **municipal leaders and staff** across the province.

The listserv will:

- Support the exchange of information related to municipal practices and procedures
- Encourage collaboration and cooperation among municipal units
- Foster a community of shared interests across the municipal sector
- Provide a forum to share ideas, requests for information, best practices, and knowledge
- Serve as a key communication channel for the municipal sector
- Share relevant NSFM news, programs, services, and professional development opportunities

Sign up for the listserv [here](#). Read the listserv [guidelines](#).

Research On Extremism in Canada

hate, extremism, and targeted violence threat landscape, and may be relevant to the challenges your municipality is currently facing. [Learn more here](#) or visit the following links:

- [Addressing the Intersection of Misogyny, Targeted Hate and Violent Extremism](#)
- ['Tribe & train': Examining Canada's new model of white supremacist mobilization](#)
- [A quantitative analysis of anti-LGBTQ+ hate after the Tumbler Ridge shooting](#)
- More info: info@strongcitiesnetwork.org

Indigenous Language Learning Courses

The [Outdoor Learning School & Store](#) is offering two upcoming courses that municipal leaders and staff will find valuable and interesting, especially as many organizations move along a path towards truth and reconciliation.

- September 2026: [Mi'kmaw Introductory Language Course](#)
- Fall 2026: [4 Seasons of Indigenous Learning Course](#)
- More information: info@outdoorlearning.com

NEWS

[\\$3-million bridge upgrade to begin this summer](#)

[Antigonish awards phase 3 contract for Active Transportation Trail](#)

[Barrington Rec Centre set to open after multiple delays](#)

[Developer added as respondent in Dartmouth Cove infilling judicial review](#)

[Kentville mayor worried library meeting may not happen in time to stop closures](#)

[MODL District 9 councillor resigns, says system is 'fundamentally broken'](#)

[More than \\$900K for public transit in several N.S. towns](#)

[New Glasgow hosts Walter Cup Parade for hometown hero Kori Cheverie](#)

[N.S. premier's encounter with protesters reflects toxic political climate: experts](#)

[NS supporting regional firefighter training centres as staffing concerns grow](#)

[Official grand opening getting close for Baddeck Waterfront Boardwalk](#)

[Upgrades to Improve Comfort for Cancer Patients, Reduce Emissions at Lodge](#)
[Yarmouth Mayor urges action from N.S after multiple death threats](#)

FUNDING

Opportunities for Empowered Municipal Growth

The Funding Portal is a joint initiative of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the [Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities](#). Our mission is simple: make finding and applying for grants easy and efficient — so you can focus on building stronger communities. [nsfunding.ca](#).

New opportunities added to the portal this week:

- [One-Time Retrofit Studies](#): Green Municipal Fund funding helps affordable housing providers complete the assessments and planning needed before undertaking deep energy retrofit projects. Grants support pre-construction activities that evaluate technical, financial, and implementation approaches to achieve significant energy savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. **Deadline:** ongoing intake
- [Retrofit Pathway Study for Affordable Housing](#): Green Municipal Fund funding supports affordable housing providers in developing retrofit pathway studies that guide energy-efficient building upgrades over time. Rather than focusing on a single deep retrofit, these studies evaluate phased retrofit options over 10- and 20-year periods, helping organizations integrate energy efficiency into asset management and capital planning. **Deadline:** ongoing intake
- [National Anti-Racism Fund Projects Grants](#): Canadian Race Relations Foundation NARF Projects Grants support organizations delivering anti-racism initiatives that address systemic racism, promote public awareness, strengthen research and education, and foster cultural and intercultural community-building across Canada. Projects must take place between April 1, 2027, and March 31, 2028. **Deadline** to submit an Expression of Interest: September 2, 2026.

Upcoming information sessions:

National Anti-Racism Fund Projects Grants:

ACOA Info Session: Build Communities Strong Fund Local Impact Stream

ACOA is hosting 30-minute information sessions on the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) Local Impact Stream, which supports regionally significant infrastructure projects that improve community spaces and strengthen climate resiliency. [Learn more about the initiative.](#)

Date: July 23

Time: 10:00 am (English) or 10:30 am (French)

Register: [here](#)

More info: bis-sie@acoa-apec.gc.ca

PROGRAMS

Dependable Emergency Vehicles

The [NSFM/Canoe Procurement Program](#) partners with [Dependable Emergency Vehicles](#) one of Canada's respected builders of custom fire and emergency apparatus designed, engineered, manufactured, and supported right here in Canada. From pumpers and tankers to rescues and specialty emergency vehicles, Dependable plays a critical role in supporting frontline responders. The program works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Fitness Supply

Procuring fitness equipment can be a marathon of work. Through the [NSFM/Canoe Fitness Supply Program](#), your municipal unit has access to plenty of options and sources to assist with your gym or recreation facilities needs. The program provides a simplified process at best-value pricing and works with local retailers for supply, service, and support. **NSFM/Canoe = Local.**

Grounds Maintenance

From highway ditch care to greenspace maintenance, tractors to wide-area flail mowers, the [NSFM/Canoe Grounds Maintenance Program](#) has partnered with industry leaders to bring innovative solutions to your landscaping challenges. The

HR Spotlight: Is Your Team Running on Empty?

In this article, explore a growing workplace issue that often goes unnoticed: employee sleep deprivation. New research reveals that nearly half of Canadian employees are not getting enough sleep, with significant impacts on productivity, absenteeism, mental health, and overall wellbeing. [Learn what is keeping employees awake at night](#), why many are not accessing available support, and how employers can use existing resources to help their workforce rest easier and perform at their best. Review your current benefits plan to ensure sleep and mental health supports are visible and accessible to employees. Encourage managers to model healthy boundaries around after-hours communication and workload expectations.

[HR Covered](#) is a program partner of NSFM. Reach out to the advisory team if you need more information on this item, as well as many other great HR resources offered at **no-charge** to municipal units in NS. More info: partnerships@hrcovered.com

Municipal HST Offset Grants Issued

The 2026 Municipal HST Offset Grants have been finalized. The grant is based on the submissions from municipalities collected by NSFM this past spring. As a result of this **NSFM Program**, \$6 million in funding will be issued to municipalities across Nova Scotia this month by the Municipal Finance Team at Department of Municipal Affairs. Thank you to DMA staff for their assistance with this program and thank you to the municipalities who submitted their information to qualify for the grant.

In 1998, NSFM negotiated the Municipal HST Offset Program with the province, intended to lessen the financial impact on municipalities paying the HST. Since then, the program has provided approximately \$156 million to municipalities. Payments are based on municipal expenditures in the previous year.

Tips: How to Save Money on Insurance

We are all looking for ways to be savvy about how we are spending our money these days. Whether cutting back on eating out or looking at what household expenses could be shaved back a little, everyone is trying to keep some extra dollars in their wallet. Trying to save money in different areas of your budget? It is a good idea to

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. [More information.](#)

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 and if you use the discount code, parking is 40% cheaper than parking in the airport lot.**

WEBINARS

Canoe Procurement for the NS Municipal Sector

NSFM and [Canoe Procurement Group](#) are hosting a one-hour webinar outlining how the program works, how to access and maximize your participation in the program. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, gain insight, and better understand how this procurement option can support your municipal unit and augment your other procurement activities. The webinar will be of interest to anyone in your organization affiliated with the procurement process.

- Wednesday August 12 @ 1:30 pm
- Hosts: Sarah Hubble & Stephanie Morris, Canoe Procurement
- [Register here](#)
- Questions: imorrison@nsfm.ca



Harassment Prevention and Safer Workplaces Together: Regulatory Updates and the Path Ahead

Presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills, & Immigration

Join us for an update on workplace harassment following the September 1, 2025 implementation of new regulations. Learn about emerging trends, key insights, and progress across Nova Scotia workplaces. This interactive session will also explore what's next for workplace safety and provide an opportunity to share the tools, resources, and supports needed to strengthen harassment prevention across the province.

Event Details

Date: August 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Register: [Click Here](#)

Climate Adaptation Webinars for Municipal Staff

The University of Waterloo's Climate Institute is offering a free webinar for municipal staff and elected officials. Topics include accounting and finance, health and well-being, nature-based solutions, engineering, governance, and planning to support local climate resilience.

Event Details

Date/Time: July 21 | 2–3 p.m. (Atlantic)

Register: [here](#)

RESOURCES

[Summer Municipal Observer](#)

The magazine for the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**

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