



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM BOARD REPORT, DECEMBER 7, 2018

December 12, 2018

TO: Mayors, Wardens, Clerks, All Units

CC: NSFM Membership

FR: Wayne Mason, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

RE: NSFM BOARD REPORT, DECEMBER 7, 2018

I am pleased to send you the highlights of NSFM Board Report from our December 7, 2018, meeting. We ask that you include this report on your Council Agenda. We would be pleased to answer any questions that may arise or hear any comments and/or suggestions.

Also attached is the update on our initiatives report.

- LPPANS Presentation:** Mr. Nathan Rodgers, President of Licensed Professional Planners Association of Nova Scotia presented to the Board, with a request to assist in obtaining provincial consideration of Active Transportation when planning. The Board suggested NSFM work with LLPANS to determine how best to support their efforts.
- PVSC Presentation:** The Board agreed by motion to support PVSC's request of gaining Subsidiary Status. NSFM's President will co-sign, with the Chair of PVSC, a letter acknowledging Government's response and advising that the response is being taken under advisement by both Boards.
- Name Change:** The Board approved a motion to request that the Governor in Council make an Order in Council to change the name of Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to reflect the new desired name of the organization, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.
- Political Activity Policy:** The Board reviewed and amended the NSFM Political Activity Policy. The policy specifies a Board Member must take a leave of absence when nominated for a provincial election. When nominated for a federal election, a Board member must take a leave of absence when the election writ is dropped.
- NSFM 2019 Budget:** The Board approved the 2019 Budget.

6. **Legal Opinion—12-Month Notice:** The Board obtained legal opinion around the information that needs to be included in the 12 month notice and will be discussing this with the provincial government.
7. **Legal Opinion—Surplus Schools:** The Board obtained legal opinion on the requirement of the province to provide municipalities with a choice to refuse ownership of a surplus school and will be discussing this with the provincial government.
8. **Women in Local Government:** The Board agreed to re-establish a committee focussed on supporting women, but renaming it to recognize this is not just an issue for women.
9. **Climate Change and NSFAM Role:** The Board directed staff to explore ways of helping municipalities address climate change and take advantage of green funding.
10. **Revenue from Sale of Cannabis:** In response to a letter from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality on this issue, the Board agreed to ask to address the CBRM Council and to embark on a campaign to engage Members of Parliament seeking support for a share of the new revenues generated through the sale of cannabis.
11. **Rural Internet:** The Board agreed to write a letter to Develop Nova Scotia outlining NSFAM's concerns and to invite Develop NS to present at the next Board Meeting.



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Board Initiatives Report – December 2018

NSFM Vision: Effective local government and strong, sustainable communities

NSFM Mission: To enable effective local government for Nova Scotia's communities by facilitating strategic advocacy, education and collaboration

Initiatives

1. Partnership Framework

A report on the progress under the Partnership Framework was approved at the Ministers Roundtable meeting with the NSFM Executive on October 30, 2018. The report was distributed to members on November 5th and is on the NSFM website under the Advocacy tab.

Discussions between the NSFM, AMANS and Department of Municipal Affairs continue.

The Fire Services Committee met November 22.

2. Report on 2018 Resolutions

The 2018 resolutions and Statements of Municipal Concern were sent to the Province for consideration on November 22. It is anticipated the resolutions will be discussed at the next Ministers Round Table meeting, tentatively being scheduled for January.

CAP: The NSFM President, Regional Chair and Towns Chair met with representatives of the real estate sector, mortgage brokers, property lawyers and appraisers, along with AMANS and Turner Drake. There was agreement to work collaboratively on communications around the CAP issue. Further meetings will be held.

Extended Producer Responsibility: The Solid Waste Priorities group met to discuss the outreach to the business community to gather their feedback on the NSFM proposal.

Municipal Funding: The NSFM Executive met with Minister Casey as part of Advocacy Days on November 8, and the Executive shared the resolution with her.

Roads: The Joint Committee on Roads held their first meeting November 1, and

their next meeting is December 6. NSFAM Committee member is Councillor Lennie White, Westville. AMANS representatives are Greg Herrett, Amherst and Chris McNeill, Queens

3. Cannabis Legalization

NSFM continues to raise the need for new revenues for municipalities to address the implications of the legalization of cannabis.

The NSFAM/AMA Municipal Cannabis Working Group has been meeting to discuss the implications to NS municipalities. Training in preparation for legalization and implications for the workplace is being launched. Discussions continue on the implications for planning, bylaws etc.

The committee is beginning to prepare for the legalization of edibles.

4. Asset Management

NSFM continues to support municipalities with asset management planning, as a requirement of the 2014-24 Gas Tax Fund Agreement.

Workshops Integrating Climate Consideration into Asset Management Planning

In mid-June, NSFAM received word that FCM approved our funding proposal to the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) to deliver two 1-day workshops to help municipalities incorporate climate risks into their asset management planning practices. NSFAM is working with a local group – ClimAction Services – to deliver the workshops aimed at enhancing local asset management practices by providing municipalities with the information and tools to include climate considerations into their long-term infrastructure planning. This will help position them to take necessary steps to proactively adapt their assets to climate risks.

The first workshop was held on Nov. 26 in Dartmouth and was very well received. The second workshop, scheduled to take place in Middleton on November 28, has been postponed until early January to try and increase attendance.

Online Asset Management Courses

NSFM has developed two online resources to support municipalities in understanding and implementing sound asset management practices, which will help them make informed, proactive infrastructure and budget decisions based on the priorities and needs of their communities. On October 31, NSFAM launched the following courses to support municipalities with their asset management planning efforts:

The Basics of Asset Management for Elected Officials to provide elected officials with a simple and clear understanding of asset management and how to use it to inform infrastructure decision making and improve service delivery (cost: \$175.00)

The Data Collection Standard Operating Procedure Guide for Linear Assets to provide an overview to the first set of tools developed through the *Nova Scotia Asset Management Program* by the Province of Nova Scotia for linear data collection (cost: Free)

The courses can be accessed at: www.nsfm.ca/nsfm-asset-management.html

The screenshot shows a web-based course overview page. On the left is a dark sidebar with a 'Menu' and 'Closed Captioning' option. The main content area has a header with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities logo and the title 'Course Overview'. Below the header is a video player interface with a play button, a progress bar at 1/43, and a refresh icon. The main text reads: 'Welcome to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' Course on Asset Management!'. It states the course is designed to give elected officials basic information about using asset management to improve municipal operations and inform decision making. A list of five course topics is provided: 1. Defining and understanding asset management, 2. The role of Council and Staff in asset management planning, 3. Steps in asset management planning, 4. Local case studies, and 5. Steps for getting started and ways to build success. Below the list is a landscape photograph of a river and a road. To the right of the photo is a text box stating: 'This initiative is offered through the Municipal Asset Management Program, which is delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and funded by the Government of Canada.' At the bottom right are the logos for FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) and Canada.

5. Upcoming Events