



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

## NSFM BOARD REPORT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

**TO:** Mayors, Wardens, Clerks, All Units

**CC:** NSFM Membership

**FR:** Geoff Stewart, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

I am pleased to send you the highlights of NSFM Board Report from our September 28, 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.

1. The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) provided an overview of the regulations around the **reporting of expenses** of elected officials and hospitality,

and around municipal audit committees. DMA will be holding information sessions to help municipalities understand the requirements.

2. **Minimum Planning Standards:** The NSFAM will make a presentation to the Law Amendments Committee on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, in support of bill 58, concerning minimum standards for land use planning across Nova Scotia's 50 municipalities. Mayor Jeff Cantwell, NSFAM Towns Caucus Chair, will represent NSFAM at the Law Amendments Committee. The Department of Municipal Affairs will be working with municipalities on the regulations for this legislation.
3. **Advocacy Days:** NSFAM met with the three political caucuses during the week of September 24. In total, there were 32 MLA's and Ministers in attendance at these meetings. Separate invitations to meet were sent to the Premier and certain Ministers. Advocacy Days are intended to build the relationship with the province, and the need to work together to help our communities and our province grow. While NSFAM noted the increased areas where there are now joint committees exploring the issues and opportunities, there is need for action. NSFAM noted a growing concern about the ability of the property tax system to support the responsibilities municipalities are being expected to deliver. A brochure was produced to highlight the message and the brochure is available on the NSFAM website.
4. **2017 Revised Audited Financial Statements:** The Board approved a recent amendment to the 2017 NSFAM Audited Financial Statements.
5. **Notice of Motion, re Dues 2019:** The Board approved the Notice of Motion, re Dues 2019 to retain the current formula for the allocation of NSFAM annual fees for the 2019 Budget year and that a proposed budget for the 2019 year will be brought forward to the Board at the December meeting.
6. **2020 Spring Workshop Location:** The Board approved Sydney, as the location for the 2020 Spring Workshop Location. Sessions will be at the Holiday Inn Sydney, with lunch being at the Pavillion.
7. **NSFAM Resolution Policy Amendments:** The Board approved NSFAM Resolution Policy. This policy will be posted on the NSFAM website.
8. **Women in Local Government:** The Board agreed to establish a WILG Committee aimed at supporting women currently involved in local government; and that NSFAM continue to work with Status of Women on developing an initiative aimed at encouraging women to become involved in local government.



9. **Nova Scotia Power:** NSFM Board members met with Karen Hutt, President and CEO, who provided an overview of NSPI initiatives. NSPI is interested in working with municipalities on innovative energy solutions.



## Board Initiatives Report – September 28, 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

##### Description/Update

A workshop on internet is being planned for October 11. NSFM members will hear more about the provincial and federal initiatives, about municipal initiatives and the ways municipalities can support internet initiatives.

A Joint Committee on Roads is being formed and NSFM members are being invited to serve on the committee. NSFM Committee member is Councillor Lennie White, Westville. AMANS representatives are Greg Herrett, Amherst and Chris McNeill, Queens

The Joint Committee on Housing is being formed. NSFM members include Mayor Anna Allen, Windsor, and Councillor Jack Fancy, Queens. AMANS representatives are Keith MacDonald, Inverness and Maggie MacDonald, Halifax.

Staff are also working with the Department of Seniors to develop terms of reference for a joint committee to address opportunities under the SHIFT program.



## 2. **Cannabis Legalization**

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

The NSFM/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 planned. Discussions continue on the implications for planning, bylaws etc.

## 3. **Asset Management**

NSFM continues to support municipalities with asset management planning, as a requirement of the 2014-24 Gas Tax Fund Agreement. In mid-June, NSFM 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. NSFM is working with a local group – ClimAction Services – to develop 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 workshops are scheduled to take place on November 27 and 29 in HRM and Middleton (exact locations to be confirmed).

NSFM continues to work on two online resources with funds received from MAMP: 1) an online course for elected officials on the basics of asset management (which is the final stages of development) and 2) an online learning module based on the Province of Nova's asset management pilot project's standard operation procedures for data collection and condition assessments for linear assets. NSFM expects that both courses will be completed in late October/early November.

## 4. **Upcoming Events**

- Municipal Workshop on Rural Internet, October 11, Holiday Inn Truro, Truro, NS



- November 6-9, NSFM Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting, Halifax, NS.
- November 7, NSFM Caucus meetings, as part of the Fall Conference, Halifax, NS.
- AMANS' Financial Management 3 for Elected Officials Workshop, November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, Location To Be Determined
- NSFM's *Integrating Climate Considerations into Asset Management Planning* Workshops: November 26 (HRM) and November 28 (Middleton)









