

1. Special Meeting of the Members

A virtual Special Meeting of the Members will take place on June 9, 2022. Members will be asked to vote on proposed changes to NSFM by-laws. Details, agenda, and a Zoom link will be sent out by email.

For more information on proposed the changes, visit <https://www.nsfm.ca/nsfm-organizational-change.html>.

2. NSFM Launches Service Exchange Renegotiation and Municipal Government Act Review (SERMGAR) Committee

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has been mandated to renegotiate the current Service Exchange Agreement with municipalities and to review the Municipal Government Act (MGA). This represents an exciting opportunity to address long-standing issues and support local governments confronting modern-day challenges. In response, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Board of Directors struck a committee of municipal leaders to engage with the province through this process.

SERMGAR will engage with NSFM members to hear their input on the current municipal/provincial landscape. Using these insights, and a variety of other tools and resources, the committee will advise the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing in a collaborative and forward-thinking fashion. The negotiations and review are expected to take approximately two years to complete, and the committee will be providing regular progress reports to NSFM members.

3. NSFM Organizational Change Outline

As per section 519 of the MGA, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is required to provide the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 12 months' notice of any provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing canvassed all other provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year.

The letter can be viewed here: https://nsfm.ca/doclink/corr063-nsfm/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUz11NiJ9.eyJzdWIiOiJib3JyMDYzLW5zZm0iLCJpYXQiOiJlE2NTlE1MDA2MTcsImV4cCI6MTY1MTU4NzAxN30.ZmwWVhhMqQKGmtStE9UG5A0094jYwvur_NxJOSOYmU.

4. Accessibility Directorate Spring Update

The Accessibility Directorate will be hosting the next Virtual Gathering for Prescribed Public Sector Bodies on June 1st 9:30am-11:30am. This session will be held during Access Awareness Week and will provide an opportunity to celebrate the accessibility successes and learnings of prescribed public sector bodies. A panel of accessibility leads from public sector bodies will share their challenges, achievements, and insights and respond to questions about their work. Registration is open now. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the session.

The first annual Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion hosted by Employment and Social Development Canada is being held May 26 - 27, 2022. This free virtual event provides an opportunity to bring people together to exchange ideas and ground-breaking insights to help shape accessible and inclusively designed communities and workplaces across Canada. For more information and to register visit the conference website at <https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/canadian-congress-disability-inclusion>.

As you have heard, the Awareness Campaign, “Access Includes Everyone in Everyday Life”, has been launched! We are really excited about this campaign and hope the campaign materials are helpful in the work you are doing to promote accessibility within your organizations and communities. If you have questions about the campaign or would like to share a success story from your organization or community, you can contact them at: accessibility@novascotia.ca.

A reminder that Monday Memos are sent each Monday to NSFM members by email. The memo has noteworthy items, event highlights, upcoming meeting reminders, media mentions and member messages in one weekly package. Articles and updates from the NSFM Monday Memos can also be found here: <https://www.nsfm.ca/table/news/monday-memo/>.