

AMANS UPDATE

January 2018



Upcoming AMANS Events

31

Jan

Municipal Modernization Session

Commonwealth Room A & B, The Westin Nova Scotian 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$35. To register please email tverbeke@unsm.ca

The Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia (AMA), Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM), and Department of Municipal Affairs are hosting a one-day session for Mayors, Wardens, Village Commissioner Chairs, Chief Administrative Officers, and Clerk/Treasurers of all municipalities and villages in the Province to come together to lay the practical and relational foundation for the continued discussion of, and action toward helping municipalities meet the needs of today and tomorrow through municipal modernization. [Watch AMA President, Alain Muise, talk about what Municipal Modernization means to him](#)

2018 Save the Dates | AMANS Conferences



June 13-15, 2018 White Point Beach
Liverpool, NS



October 16-19, 2018 Inverary Resort
Baddeck, NS

Rooms are available for booking at both resorts. Please visit our website for more information.

AMANS Governance Review

The AMA Board will be undertaking a governance review. It has been ten years since the AMA has reviewed its governance model and by-laws. The scope of the project has been to assess the governance structure of the AMA, but not limited to the length of term of the position of Vice-President and President; review the roles of the Executive Committee; review the By-laws of the Association and other governance documents. The Board will be going out to the general membership with the preliminary review for consultation in the coming weeks with Phase one of the review. The Board is recommending that the term of president be change to two years, the term of Vice-President will be one year with an option to be reappointed. It is hoped that the changes will be approved by the general membership at the Spring Conference.

Priorities

On January 19th the Association's Board discussed the priorities for the coming year, and where AMA can focus its resources. Some priorities discussed, but are not limited to, municipal modernization, MGA Review, AMANS Governance, Model Expense and Hospitality Policies, CAP and Accessibility Framework.

AMANS and Provincial Procurement

The AMA is working with NS Procurement to create a greater link between the Provincial Procurement Department and NS Municipalities. We have had initial discussions, and from these discussions some of the ways we would like to improve this relationship is through:

- Providing contracts
- Information regarding internal trade agreement
- Procurement Newsletters
- Training/Webinars
- Providing information around what is available to municipalities and accessing the provincial portal for standing offers

AMA Education Committee

The AMA put on two very successful training modules so far this winter. The first was Financial Management for Elected Officials at which 28 members attended. Greg Herrett, CPA, CA, CAO, Town of Amherst and Bonnie Coulter, CPA, CA, Director of Finance, Town of New Glasgow facilitated the two- day workshop. An additional module was put on for staff which was facilitated by Mike Dolter, CPA, CMA, CAO, Town of Truro and Cathie Osborne, CPA, CMA. Evaluations for both modules were excellent.

A new leadership module is in the process of being developed for elected and appointed officials. The Education Committee is looking at training on engagement and Occupational Health and Safety.

Building Officials Training

The AMA wrote to the Deputy Minister expressing the Board's concerns with respect to the certification of building officials and availability of training. The Deputy responded outlining changes that have and are taking place with respect to the above. While the Board was very pleased with the changes, it has written back asking for some clarification around availability of courses and Interprovincial equivalency. The AMA also has representation on the Building Official Certification Board.