

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

SAVE THE DATE

Records Workshop – May 16,
Alderney Gate, Dartmouth, NS

[More Information](#)

**Municipal Workplace Wellness
Day – May 23rd**

**Human Resources Management
2 Module_June 11/12**

New Glasgow [More Information](#)

**Spring Conference – June 12-14,
Summer Street Industries, New
Glasgow.** Hosted by the Pictou
Region

[More Information](#)

Fall Conference-October 15-18,
Digby Pines. Hosted by South
Western Shore Region

[More Information](#)

**Financial Management for
Municipal Managers –
November 6-7**

**Human Resource
Management: Law, Labour
Relations and Employee
Benefits (Module 1)
November 15**



The Province of Nova Scotia has proclaimed **May 23, 2019** as **Municipal Workplace Wellness Day**. Creating this province-wide Municipal Workplace Wellness Day sends a message to municipal employees, and future employees, that government is serious about employee health and wellbeing.

Municipal government employs over 6000 people across the Province and the health and wellbeing of municipal employees and elected officials is a top priority of the Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia (AMANS) /Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM), Wellness Program. Municipalities are the level of government closest to communities and therefore have an opportunity to show leadership by promoting the importance of investing in the health and wellness of employees. Wellness happens when the people and places around us, support us.

A dedicated day for workplace wellness is in line with AMANS/NSFM Wellness Program vision of creating healthy active employees and elected officials, thriving in healthy work environments. The Wellness Program will partner with municipalities in an ongoing effort to inspire and encourage the creation of wellness supporting environments that benefit all municipal employees and elected officials.

Chronic conditions are preventable! Employee wellness is a smart investment and research has shown that there is a strong link between employee health behaviours, productivity and absenteeism. Employers want to help their staff flourish, therefore investing in the health and well-being of staff is one of the most sustainable decisions municipalities can make, and we want to celebrate their tremendous efforts.

We will encourage all municipalities to embrace Municipal Workplace Wellness Day and encourage their employees to participate by being active, eating healthy and taking some time in the day to de-stress. It is time for municipalities to showcase what their workplace is doing to enhance wellness!



“A professional association of current and future municipal government managers and administrators dedicated to excellence in municipal government through education, objective advice and networking.”



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The AMA Board has set its priorities for the coming year and beyond. It divided its priorities into two buckets: 1. Multi-year priorities: These priorities have a policy focus and align closely with NSFM’s resolutions. AMA’s role here is to provide technical advice and research. 2. Capacity building in Municipal Risk Areas – These are areas where AMA can provide resources and tools to assist municipalities.

Multi-year Priorities:

1. Municipal Modernization
2. CAP
3. Accessibility
4. Municipal Funding

Municipal Risk Areas – Capacity Building

1. Cyber Security
2. Procurement
3. Code of Conduct
4. Fire Services Education/Resource Materials
5. FOIPOP

Staff and the Board will be working on developing a tactical plan, which will assign resources, identify outcomes and define what success looks like.

Thanks to all members who forwarded suggestions to the AMA office. Some suggestions that did not make the priority list will be worked on internally where staff resources permit.

AMANS STRATEGIC PILLARS

Improve Public Policy in the Province and in Turn Improve Service to Citizens

Improve Capacity in local government through training and professional development of staff and elected officials

Services to members through tools and resources to municipalities

“Making Municipal Government the place to work - where you can make a difference supporting strong local government in Nova Scotia's communities.”

Committee Appointments

AMANS Communications Committee

Communications Committee

- Patrick Hirtle, Communications Manager – Town of Bridgewater
- Jennifer Webber, Communications Officer – Municipality of Chester
- Chrystal Remme, Communications Officer – Municipality of West Hants
- Jonathan Meakin, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator – Municipality of Chester
- Kate Gorman, Communications Officer – Town of Antigonish
- Jody MacArthur, Communications Officer – Municipality East Hants
- Mike Carter, Communications Officer – Town of Yarmouth
- Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer – Municipality of Victoria
- Jillian Moore, Communications Officer – CBRM
- Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer – Municipality of Lunenburg



Bill 58 was passed on October 1, 2018 and it amends the MGA and HRM Charter. The Department of Municipal Affairs is asking for input on the regulations for mandatory planning, minimum planning requirements and engagement with abutting municipalities. It is anticipated that once Bill 58 is proclaimed and regulations declared, municipalities will have three years to comply. Input can be submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs until June 28, 2018



Changes to Mortgage Tax Accounts

Changes to CDIC deposit insurance will no longer provide insurance for mortgage tax accounts in 2020. This along with other issues that RBC has identified, led the bank to a decision to no longer collect and submit taxes to municipal government on behalf of the homeowner. One municipality was told that their RBC branch staff is encouraging clients to set up a monthly payment directly to the municipality for their taxes or establish a regular savings plan from which they can pay taxes directly to the municipality.

While we know of no other financial institutions that have indicated they are following suit, you may want to check with your local branches.



Training and Development

The AMA is looking at developing resources and training to help build municipal capacity around accessibility as it relates to communications and information, strategic planning, legislation and policy, community engagement and cyber security. We will be offering a number of our existing modules and are especially excited to provide a first-time offering of Part II of our Human Resources Module Series.

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Model Policies

During the Spring sitting of the Legislature Municipalities were granted broad sweeping powers to expend, through Bill 92. In this change there is a requirement for each municipality to have a community grants policy. The AMA is currently developing a model policy to assist municipalities with this.

In addition, AMA will be working with the Joint Fire Services Committee to develop a model Fire Services Registration Policy.



AMA Spring Conference

It has been eight years since the AMA has held the Spring Conference in the Pictou areas and we are delighted to be back. The Pictou Region has kindly agreed hosted the event. In true Pictou County style the region has a fabulous event planned for AMA members, packed with local flavour. AMA believes it is important to support and show off the vibrant communities in this great Province. It's easy to read about the countless initiatives municipalities are working on to enhance their communities, but nothing is better than the experience of seeing first it first hand. We hope you will come out and support your association and the Pictou Region.

Registration for the Spring Conference is now open. [Click here to register today!](#) We still have our early bird pricing available. Registrations received after May 29 will be subject to the full fee. Our program this year is filled with timely topics and great speakers. [Our full program is available on our website.](#)

The delegates will be responsible for getting themselves to and from the hotel and the conference facility for conference sessions. However, we will be offering a free shuttle service from the hotels to the offsite locations for the Opening Reception and the Thursday Night Activity.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Click here to find municipal employment opportunities

[Employment Opportunities](#)

CONTACT US

Janice Wentzell, Executive Director

Tel: (902) 423-8323 ;

Email: jwentzell@amans.ca

Les Coleman, Municipal Website Coordinator

Tel: (902) 424-3625

Email: lc Coleman@amans.ca

Rebecca Kolstee, Municipal Wellness Coordinator

Tel: (902) 240-1857

Email: rkolstee@amans.ca

Andrea Jeffs, Program and Administrative Officer

Tel: (902) 423-2215

Email: ajeffs@amans.ca

David Atchison, Policy Analyst / Project Coordinator

Tel: (902) 225-2288

Email: datchison@amans.ca