

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

SAVE THE DATES

50th Annual Fall Conference September 22 - 25, 2020:

DoubleTree by Hilton,
Dartmouth, NS

[Book your rooms now using
this rooming link for the hotel.](#)

Accessibility Communications Webinars:

- Assistive Technology Webinar January 15, 2020
- Audit and Visual Webinar January 17, 2020
- Microsoft Word Webinar January 22, 2020
- PDF Webinar January 24, 2020

AMANS Spring Conference: June 10-12, 2020

Dundee Resort Golf Club, West
Bay, NS

To book your room please call:
1-844-638-6333



Fall Conference: The Annual Fall Conference held on October 15-18, 2019 at Digby Pines, had the highest attendance ever at 152. We appreciate everyone's participation in making this event a success, including the hosting region of the South Western Shore.

For those interested in accessing the presentations presented at the conference please visit our [members only area](#) on our website. If you are having trouble logging in, or can't remember your membership ID number please email ajeffs@amans.ca



The Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate's office has released the final version of their Accessibility Planning Toolkit for Municipalities. This can be accessed on [our website](#). This robust toolkit contains sample terms of references for your accessibility committee, funding opportunities, and resources to develop your accessibility plan. On December 3rd, the Internal Day for Persons with Disabilities, the Directorate's office will be holding a formal announcement with respect to prescription dates and resources available.

AMANS has also partnered with Lisa Snider, from Access Changes Everything to develop accessibility webinars for communications. The webinars will be taking place on the following dates:

- Assistive Technology – January 15
- Audio and Visual – January 17
- Microsoft Word – January 22
- PDF – January 24

If you are interested in attending one or all of the webinars, please email ajeffs@amans.ca. After January 24, the webinars will be available to all municipalities.

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



Workers' Compensation Act

The Province of Nova Scotia recently passed Bill 204 - Workers' Compensation Act (amended). This Bill mandates the extension of full WCB coverage to volunteer firefighters and removes the process by which municipalities applied to the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia (WCB) for admission of firefighters into the workers' compensation system. It is now mandatory to register volunteer firefighters. This change also effectively extends presumptive coverage for PTSD and certain types cancer to all volunteer firefighters. It is estimated that fifty percent of volunteer firefighters do not currently have coverage with the WCB.

The WCB assessment for volunteer firefighters is based on an imputed payroll per firefighter, with a 2019 premium rate of \$0.47 per \$100 of payroll. For the purpose of calculating the average earnings of the volunteer fire department, the *Workers' Compensation General Regulations* stipulate the minimum gross annual earnings of a member of a volunteer firefighter to be \$10,200. While not required, Municipalities can choose more, up to a maximum of \$60,900. The Department of Labour and Advanced Education estimates that the annual cost of WCB coverage will be \$48 per volunteer firefighter based on the minimum imputed salary. These changes come into effect on October 20, 2020.

If you have any questions with respect to registering your volunteers (on or before it is required to do so), please contact Kevin Foster, Manager, Strategy, Support and Planning at WCB of Nova Scotia by email at Kevin.Foster@wcb.ns.ca or by phone at (902) 491-8365.

Wellness Tip: Happiness at Work

Happy workers are proven to be more creative and make better problem solvers. But many work environments often stifles happiness, rather than promoting it. Learn more about how to enhance the health and wellbeing of your employees visit the [municipal wellness website](#) for toolkit ideas.

APPOINTMENTS

AMA Audit Committee

Allison Duggan, Director of Finance, Municipality of the County of Antigonish was appointed as the AMA Board representative.

AMA Audit Committee membership consists of the Secretary/Treasurer, a member at large and an AMA Board member. A requirement under the Audit Committee Terms of Reference is for all members to have accounting expertise.

2019/2020 AMANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: EXECUTIVE TEAM

Mike Dolter, President

Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Truro

John MacKinnon, Vice-President

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Alain Muise, Past-President

Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the District of Argyle

Jane Fraser,

Secretary/ Treasurer

Director of Finance Asset
Management, ICT, CFO
Halifax Regional Municipality

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



Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Service Committee

The Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Service Committee has released an information bulletin on the topic of mutual / automatic aid agreements. A model fire and emergency service registration policy was distributed with this education bulletin. If you would like to be sent a copy of the model fire and emergency service registration policy, please contact David Atchison datchison@amans.ca.

The committee will be producing educational bulletins and other resources on a variety of topics concerning fire services in Nova Scotia over the coming months. All information bulletins are posted to amans.ca/project-and-policy-resources as they are released. Please feel free to distribute these bulletins within your municipality and on social media. The Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Service Committee looks forward to your feedback on how to improve fire operations in Nova Scotia.



Municipal Wellness Program

With mental health, inactivity and obesity on the rise, it is extremely important for workplaces to have health and wellness programs in place. Investing in the health and wellbeing of the employees can help to decrease, absenteeism and medical expenses; as well as increase staff morale, and productivity. The good news is, it is never too late to start a wellness program. Use the newly created [wellness website](#) to help guide your wellness programs and policies. The wellness coordinator is also a great resources to help your municipality get started.

The Municipal Wellness program will be launching some new initiatives in 2020 including the creation of regional wellness committees. These committees will work on wellness initiatives that will benefit all the municipalities in the regional areas. Updates will be provided on the wellness website.

2019/2020 AMANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Allison Duggan, Antigonish/Guysborough
Director of Finance
Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Jennifer Collins, Cape Breton Region
Supervisor Water Utility
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Greg Herrett, Cumberland Region
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Amherst

**Robert Simonds, Colchester/
East Hants Region**
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the District of Colchester

Maggie MacDonald, Metro Region
A/Manager, Planning and Support Services
Halifax Regional Municipality

Nicole Battist, Pictou Region
Deputy Clerk, Town of Pictou

Tara Maguire, South Shore Region
Director of Community Development
Municipality of the District of Chester

**Victoria Brooks, South Western
Shore Region**
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Carlee Lowe, Valley Region
Director of Finance
Municipality of the District of West Hants

**Leanne MacEachen, Victoria, Inverness
and Richmond Region**
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the County of Victoria

Francesca Patten
Second Year MPA Student Representative
Dalhousie University

Councillor Waye Mason, HRM, NSFM Rep.
Past-President, NSFM

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Find out about municipal 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: lcoleman@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



Municipal Website Venture: The Municipal Website Venture has recently launched the [Village of Bible Hill](#) and the [Truro Business Park site](#).

We are also pleased to announce that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has just joined the MWV Program. In this initiative, the MWV Program will be developing a website that meets, and exceeds, the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA minimum. We have partnered with Lisa Snider from Access Changes Everything in order to perform an accessibility audit that shows how the MODL website meets the WCAG 2.1 Level AA. With the pending accessibility legislation of 2030, municipalities will need to consider how to make their websites accessible to those in their community.

This partnership opens many opportunities to our partners with respect to accessible websites. For more information about the MWV or website audits, please contact ajeffs@amans.ca



AMANS is pleased to announce a new mobility and digital transformation partnership with TELUS. TELUS has been a strong supporter of AMANS through conference and event sponsorship for many years; this is another step in building that long-standing relationship. TELUS' account executives are ready to help your municipalities strive towards your vision of success. They would be happy to discuss some of TELUS' digital transformation plans to help AMANS members best adapt and succeed in our digital world.

We are also excited to announce an offer for exclusive mobility discounts through the TELUS Employee Purchase Programs (EPP) available to all municipal employees in Nova Scotia. [Visit your local dealer store](#) with your active municipal email address to get started today!

For additional details, connect with AMANS Program and Administrative Officer, Andrea Jeffs at 902-423-2215 or ajeffs@amans.ca