

# NEWSLETTER

February 2019

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Spring Conference – June 12-14, 2019** will be held at the Summer Street Industries and hosted by the Pictou Region

**Fall Conference – October 15-18, 2019** will be held at Digby Pines and hosted by South Western Shore Region

For more information about accommodations and prices please [visit our website](#).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Records Workshop:

May 16, Dartmouth

### Human Resources Management 2 Module:

June 11/12, New Glasgow



### AMANS Board of Directors

On February 21, 2019 the AMANS Board of Directors and the NSFM Board of Directors got together for their first joint board strategy session. Tara Wickwire and Kristan Hines of National facilitated a very engaging session on advocacy with the two Boards.

At the upcoming board meeting in March, the AMANS Board of Directors will review their priorities for the year. Top priorities of the AMANS Board of Directors from the last year included: Municipal Modernization, MGA Review, AMANS Governance, Development of Leadership Module, the CAP and Accessibility Framework. Although some of these are still ongoing, much progress has been made in completing or advancing these priorities.



### Building Officials Training

There have been a number of recent developments with respect to Building Officials Training which will hopefully lead to an increased number of persons qualified to work as building officials. The Nova Scotia Building Officials Association (NSBOA) and the Nova Scotia Building Officials Training and Certification Board have completed the changeover to the new qualification system. Under this new regime, there are now 4 distinct levels of practice for building officials. By going to 4 levels, the number of training programs required for each has lessened, allowing persons to be qualified sooner. The office of the Fire Marshal is assisting NSBOA in training additional facilitators and staff have also been volunteering to facilitate programs when available.



### Library Funding

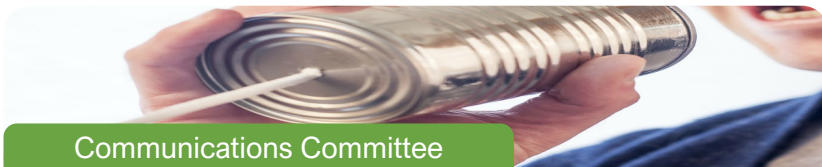
The Board of Directors met with the Department Communities, Culture and Heritage to review the new proposed funding model that was set out for libraries across the Province. This new proposed funding model will see an additional input of \$2 million from the Province and \$1.65 million from municipalities. Any change to the funding model which will impact municipalities financially requires one-year notification.

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### Municipal Elections Committee

The Municipal Elections Review Advisory Committee (MERAC) is active once again. Sandy Hudson chairs the committee in his new role as Municipal Elections Officer. The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to the Province regarding administrative considerations in relation to municipal and CSAP school board elections and to ensure any subsequent changes to elections processes or legislation are reflected in the Municipal Elections Handbook. The committee is meeting regularly and recently met with officials from the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial to discuss opportunities to improve the school board election process. The committee is also exploring the potential for another bulk purchase of e-voting services.



### Communications Committee

As municipal government continues to grow in complexity and citizen expectations continue to rise, AMANS receives more and more requests for communication professional development opportunities. In January, the AMANS Board of Directors passed a motion to develop a Communications Committee.

This committee will be struck with a mandate to provide resources and/or education to municipalities to help them with communicating to their community and media and to act as Communications Advisors to the AMA on certain projects. **Interested individuals should email [ajeffer@amans.ca](mailto:ajeffer@amans.ca) indicating why they would like to serve on this committee by March 11, 2019.**

In addition, AMANS has now set up a listserv for communication professionals to share common issues and problems. AMANS will also be facilitating regular conference calls with the group to discuss issues. If you'd like to be on this listserv, please email [ajeffer@amans.ca](mailto:ajeffer@amans.ca)

## AMANS Board of Directors 2018-2019

**Alain Muise, President**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the District of Argyle

**Mike Dolter, Vice-President**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Truro

**Marie Walsh, Past President**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

**Kim Ramsay, Secretary/Treasurer**  
Deputy CAO  
Municipality of the District of East Hants

**Jane Fraser, Metro Region**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Halifax Regional Municipality

**Jeff Gushue, South Western Shore Region**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Yarmouth

**Rennie Bugley, Cumberland Region**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Cumberland County

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

**John MacKinnon, Cape Breton Region**  
Deputy CAO  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

**Martin Laycock, Valley Region**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the District of West Hants

**Susan Higdon, Pictou Region**  
Clerk Treasurer  
Town of Stellarton

**Kent MacIntyre, Victoria, Inverness and  
Richmond Region**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Richmond County

**Rob Simonds, Colchester/East Hants Region**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the County of Colchester

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

**Geoff Stewart, NSFM**  
Deputy Mayor  
County of Colchester

**Francesca Patten, Dalhousie Student Rep**

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

## Committee Appointments

### Spring Conference Planning Committee

- Nicole Battist, Town of Pictou – Chair
- Carolyn MacIntosh, Municipality of Pictou
- Susan Higdon, Town of Stellarton
- Kelly Rice, Town of Westville
- Ron Dauphinee, Municipal Affairs
- Lisa Macdonald, Town of New Glasgow
- Cathy MacGillivray, Town of Trenton
- Kelly Sloan, Town of New Glasgow

### Fall Conference Planning Committee

- Leslie Brinton, Town of Digby – Chair
- Victoria Brooks, Municipality of Yarmouth
- Darlene LeBlanc, Municipality of Yarmouth
- Ginette Cheff, Municipality of Clare
- Jeff Sunderland, Municipality of Digby
- Cora Lee McBride, Municipality of Digby
- Jane Pryor, Halifax Regional Municipality
- Jeff Gushue, Town of Yarmouth
- Tom Ossinger, Town of Digby
- Ahmad Shahwan, Municipal Affairs
- David Hopkins, County of Annapolis

### MFC Committee

- Kenzie Mcneil, Halifax Regional Municipality

### Municipal Elections Committee

- Deborah Campbell-Ryan, CBRM
- Kevin Arjoon, Halifax Regional Municipality
- Kelly Sloan, Town of New Glasgow
- Amanda Shupe, Town of Bridgewater
- Pam Doucet, Municipality of Clare



### 2019-2020 Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2019-2020 were sent out in January. Our new membership year will begin on April 1, 2019. **The second reminder to renew your memberships will be sent on March 15, 2019.** There are two options for payment, online or a lumped invoice. Details are contained in your membership renewal memo. If you have misplaced the memo please call our office or email [ajeffer@amans.ca](mailto:ajeffer@amans.ca).

Make sure you renew before March 31, 2019 to avoid your membership benefits from being suspended. Don't forget that your membership renewal memo also contains a code that allows any non-AMA member to attend any event at the AMA member rate.



### Municipal Website Venture Program

The Municipal Website Venture has already had a busy 2019. In January we finalized the redevelopment for the [Municipality of the District of St. Mary's](#) and currently have 9 other development projects in progress. A letter was also distributed to all partners with respect to an evaluation of the future of the Municipal Website Venture Program. Those municipalities who are partners, we encourage your feedback on the survey. If you did not receive a survey please contact our office (902) 423-2215.

More information relating to the services the Municipal Website Venture program provides and other website support can be found on our [Municipal Website Venture website](#).



### Workplace Wellness Programs

Workplace wellness programs can improve the overall well-being of one's work environment. These programs have been shown to improve productivity outcomes, health care outcomes and retention outcomes.

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## Workplace Wellness Grants

The AMANS/NSFM Wellness Program is opening their grant program again to assist municipal units in the implementation of workplace wellness initiatives towards maximizing the health impacts and benefits to employees. The Wellness program focuses on providing guidance and support within 4 strategic areas:

1. Education and Awareness
2. Skill Building
3. Building Vibrant Workplaces
4. Creating Health and Wellness Policies

The grants are limited to \$1,000 per project and are only available to those municipalities who participate in the NSFM Group Benefits. Please contact our Wellness Coordinator, [Rebecca Kolstee](#) if you are unsure of your eligibility.

**[Apply for your Wellness Grant today](#) applications are due before March 29, 2019.**



## Education Committee

As we wrap up the fiscal year of 2018-19 the Education Committee has committed more funds to look into the development of more education modules for municipal administrators and elected officials. AMANS currently has over 7 modules developed and is currently developing 4 more. The focus of our modules is on Leadership, Financial Management and Human Resources. If there are other training opportunities you would like to see please

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Revenue Manger](#)  
[County of Kings](#)

## CONTACT US

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