



JUNE 9 - 11, 2021
AMANS SPRING
CONFERENCE

Virtual event through zoom

SPONSORED BY



AMANS

1809 Barrington St.

Suite 1304

Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

902-240-1857

<http://www.amans.ca/>

Program

Thursday June 3rd, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pre-Conference Webinar: Using Plain Language in Municipal Communications

Facilitator: Lisa Snider, Senior Digital Accessibility Consultant & Trainer, Access Changes Everything Inc

Municipalities have a responsibility to provide clear communication that the public can understand and use. Plain language is becoming accepted as the best practice for all government communication. By reducing jargon, simplifying sentence structure, and choosing easier words whenever possible, important information becomes clearer for everyone, particularly for those whose first language is not English and for those living with disabilities. Plain language takes practice and careful self-editing, but it pays off.

This two-hour Webinar focus on:

- Planning your communication strategy, so it is as inclusive as possible.
- Why words matter, and why certain choices can help everyone.
- Tips on how to produce clear and plain language, to make text content more accessible for everyone.
- Tips on the layout, and presentation, of textual content on websites, in documents, infographics, etc.

No technical expertise is required, just an interest in the subject.

Cost: Individuals who are registered for the conference will receive a 30% reduction in the workshop cost: \$70.00. The cost is \$100 for non-conference delegates.

Tuesday June 8th, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BIRCH AND ANCHOR

Opening Reception: Chef and Bartending Masterclass

Hosted by Birch and Anchor, Halifax NS

Join Chef Penney as he walks us through how to build a refreshing Raspberry Swizzle to enjoy while you learn to make a delicious handmade pasta with fresh ricotta and spinach.

Ingredient list: [Click here](#)

Wednesday June 9th, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies

- *AMANS President Welcoming – Mike Dolter, CAO Town of Truro*
- Joe Treen, OHS Director, Safety Services Nova Scotia
- The Hon. Brendan Maguire, Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs

Sponsored by: Safety Services Nova Scotia



9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Keynote: Moving Forward in a Pandemic.

Facilitator: Dr. Ryan Sommers

Dr. Ryan Sommers will provide an impactful keynote on what future impacts COVID-19 will have on our municipal operations; what immunizations for employees might look like and the importance of herd immunity.

10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga Break

Sponsored by: Gallagher Insurance



10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

COVID-19 Success Stories: Pivotal Changes to Municipal Operations.

A panel of municipalities will share their stories on innovative changes they have made to operations during COVID-19 lock down.

Panelists:

- Cassandra Yonder, Senior Safety Coordinator, Municipality of the County of Victoria
- Alison Grant, Manager of Economic Development, Town of Truro
- Jennifer Mantin, Business and Development Officer, Municipality of Colchester
- Greg Jones, Town of Amherst and Andrew Wallis, Amherst Fire Fighters Association
- Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: (Attend 1 of 2)

A) Communication and Interaction Styles- AMANS Communication Committee

Facilitators: Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; Patrick Hirtle, Communications Manager, Town of Bridgewater; Jody MacArthur, Communications Officer, Municipality of East Hants.

- Effective communication is critical in municipal government. Through effective communication, residents learn about the important work of the municipality, opportunities for public engagement, and changes that impact them. It's also how management and employees coordinate their activities to ensure goals are met. Members of the AMANS Communications Committee will be sharing information on the following:
 - External communications (including social media)
 - Media and Public Relations
 - Crisis Communication
 - Internal Communications
 - Why communications planning matters.

B) Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Update

Facilitator: Dr. Ren Thomas, Co-chair, Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission and Associate Professor, School of Planning, Dalhousie University

Dr. Ren Thomas, Chair of the Affordable Housing Commission will discuss the work of the Commission, challenges and opportunities that were highlighted by municipalities during the Commission's engagement process and the Commission's recommendations.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MFO Session

Facilitators: *Hardy Stuckless, A/Director of Finance, Grants, Programs and Operations and Bongsun Cho-MacDonald A/Manager of Municipal Finance & Operating Grants*

Thursday, June 10th, 2021

	Morning Yoga Session
8:40 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome
8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Keynote: The Growing Risk of Cyber Security Threats <i>Facilitator: David Fraser, McInnis and Cooper</i> <p>No organization is exempt from worrying about growing cybersecurity threats. Municipalities have legal obligations to protect information, a diverse range of stakeholders and an incredible array of information to protect. In this session, David Fraser will provide an overview of the legal obligations that municipalities have, to secure information and provide a number of examples of the types of risks that local governments need to consider preparing for the inevitable.</p>
9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions: (Attend 1 of 2)</p> <p>A) Professionalism in the virtual world <i>Facilitator: Alison McEachern, Group at Work</i> <p>Meetings in the virtual world is not going away any time soon, in fact, there is a growing demand for those joining remotely. This session will provide us with techniques on how to professionally show up for virtual meetings, deliver presentation and improve the overall meeting/work experience.</p></p> <p>B) Address Labour Shortages in Pictou County – A new Immigration based pilot project <i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Sarah MacIntosh-Wiseman, CEO Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network</i>• <i>Lara Dyer, Director of Regional Economic Immigration Programs and Policy - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada</i>• <i>Jennifer L'Esperance: Director of Programs – Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and Population Growth</i>• <i>Larry Tobin, Director of The Shapiro Foundation</i> <p>The Pictou County REN will present on the successes of their local unique immigration project. Local employers have been filling labour shortages by hiring highly skilled immigrants, who just happen to be refugees. Following early success and employer interest, this skilled refugee project is now in early stages of expanding to other regions. IRCC and NSIPG will also share their perspectives on the potential this approach presents to communities and employers across Nova Scotia, particularly within the healthcare sector.</p>
10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.

Provincial Update: Representatives from the Province of Nova Scotia will provide updates on information covering a range of topics of interest to municipalities.

Facilitators:

- *Justin Huston, DM/CEO, Municipal Affairs/L'nu Affairs*
- *Deborah Page, Director of Marketing and Communications, Develop Nova Scotia*
- *Fred Jeffers, Executive Director, OHS Division, Department of Labour and Advanced Education*

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Taking Action: Meeting the growing demand for Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia

Facilitators: Joanne Collins, Senior Analyst Mental Health and Addiction Program and Policy Planning, Nova Scotia Health Authority

We are functioning in a new reality and mental health is on the rise. NSHA-Mental Health and Addictions will provide us with an update on the mental health crisis in Nova Scotia and how this issue has driven the development of new service delivery. NSHA will share what services are available and how to best access them from rural and urban locations across the province.

Sponsored by: LifeWorks



3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Trivial Pursuit: Test your knowledge and compete against your fellow municipal professionals! Who will reign supreme? Our questions will focus on a broad spectrum of knowledge!

Friday, June 11th, 2021

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote: Emergency Preparedness!

Eleanor Taylor, Eleanor Taylor Consulting

Eleanor will provide real life local examples on being prepared for emergency situations. This session will also examine the importance of working collaboratively in planning and visioning for future emergencies identifying the key players who should be involved and well as outlining a process to assist and having a consistent program in place.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

MEDITATION Break

Sponsored by: Gallagher Insurance



10:215a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting the Demands of our Vulnerable populations

Facilitators: Nancy Baroni, Manager, Homelessness Program, Province of Nova Scotia and Dan Stovel, Regional Emergency Management Coordinator, Municipality of Kings County

This session will examine some of the needs recently identified and exacerbated during COVID-19 within the vulnerable population. We will also examine how people were supported within their communities.

Sponsored by:



11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

The New Work Reality

Facilitators: Shannon Peterson, PVSC and Shawn Andrews, Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Municipalities are being tested on how well they are adapting strategies, approaches and policies to reflect our current reality. How can you be sure your workforce is thriving? This session examines how some municipal groups have been effectively supporting and supervising their employees working from home.

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks- Mike Dolter, AMANS President & CAO Town of Truro

HOW TO REGISTER

Member Before May 26, 2021	\$ 225
Member After May 26, 2021	\$ 250
Non-Member Before May 26, 2021	\$ 250
Non-Member After May 26, 2021	\$ 275

[Click here](#) to register.

Cancellation policy: If you wish to cancel your registration in order to receive a full refund, you must provide an email in writing to rkolstee@amans.ca before May 31 at 4:30 p.m. Cancellations received after this deadline will be subject to the full fee and substitution only.