

Resolution 4A

NEED FOR CONTINUED PROVINCIAL SUPPORT OF NOVA SCOTIA – NEW ENGLAND FERRY SERVICE (PASSED)

⇒ Town of Yarmouth

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia – New England Ferry is a service for all of Nova Scotia, benefitting many of the tourism operators in all parts of this province, especially small urban and rural areas; and

WHEREAS the UNSM was one of the pivotal groups who unanimously supported, on several occasions, the reinstatement of the Nova Scotia-New England Ferry service, through tremendous lobbying efforts and other similar actions by its members; and

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia has entered into an agreement with an operator to run this service for a minimum of seven years; and

WHEREAS the amount of financial assistance suggested by the former Provincial Government was far less than what was recommended by studies and the Expert Panel that recommended this service, thus resulting in this service presently operating with less financial capital than is required;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM urge the Province of Nova Scotia to continue to financially support the continuation of the current Nova Scotia to New England Ferry service until such time that the viability of the service can be clearly ascertained.

Response from:

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

RESPONSE:

Government reached an agreement with Nova Star Cruises Limited for the 2015 season. The province will provide a \$13 million subsidy for the 2015 sailing season.

The current operators are expected to live up to their financial goals in exchange for continued funding by Nova Scotians. Should they not be able to meet those goals, the province is prepared to consider another operator.

The province is embarking upon an alternate procurement process that will allow industry representatives to provide us with the best, most creative options for a service out of Yarmouth in the event the current operator does not meet their financial commitment.