

Resolution 2A

FERRY SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AND SMALL TOWN NOVA SCOTIA (PASSED)

⇒ District of Yarmouth

WHEREAS the ferry link between Yarmouth and the United States East Coast is of vital importance to the economy and culture of the region and the province as a whole; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia ceased financial support for the essential seasonal international ferry service between Yarmouth and the United States East Coast in December 2009; and

WHEREAS the loss of this link has had, and will continue to have, a devastating impact on Nova Scotians economically and culturally; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that the UNSM petition the Government of Nova Scotia to support the Yarmouth-East Coast United States ferry link, recognizing its importance as an entry point to the province, and to the economic and cultural well being of Nova Scotia; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM request that the Government of Nova Scotia provide the necessary steps and support to ensure that this entry point to the province for both commerce and tourism be reinstated by 2011 or sooner.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Department of Economic and Rural Development

RESPONSE:

In my capacity as Minister of Economic and Rural Development, I am responding to your letter of November 16, 2010, on behalf of Premier Darrell Dexter

The Government of Canada has recently announced funding to support an additional three years of ferry service for the Digby-Saint John route. Transport Canada owns and maintains the service through a contract with Bay Ferries Limited. The Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have provided financial support to offset operational costs for the past four years. Transport Canada has approached both provinces with a request to continue with this arrangement for the next three years. Discussions are ongoing.

The Province had originally subsidized the Yarmouth to USA ferry service as a temporary measure in hopes the decline in ridership would return to profitable levels. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission has

issued a Request for Proposals for a ferry service to operate out of Yarmouth. If a commercially viable option was created for Yarmouth, the Province would be prepared to look at what we could do to help.

*The Honourable Percy A. Paris
Minister
December 16, 2010*