

## **Resolution 1C**

### **LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SOLUTION FOR FERRY SERVICES—DIGBY-SAINT JOHN & YARMOUTH-PORTLAND FERRIES (PASSED)**

⇒ County of Annapolis

**WHEREAS** ferry services in Nova Scotia are key Marine Highway Connectors that are vital to transportation, tourism and fisheries sectors in our province; and

**WHEREAS** maintaining Atlantic Ferry Services is essential to sustaining and developing key economic generators in communities throughout our province; and

**WHEREAS** the Digby-Saint John Ferry Service and the Yarmouth-Portland Ferry Service are critical for the stability and growth of tourism in the province and economic stability in Southwest Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** the \$600 million dollar annual seafood industry in Southwest Nova Scotia relies on the Digby ferry to export at least 60% of the seafood landed in the area to national and international markets; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada has invested in a 3-year extension of funding for the Digby-Saint John ferry to March 31, 2014; and

**WHEREAS** a long-term funding commitment is needed for the Digby-Saint John ferry service and the Yarmouth-Portland ferry service;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write the Province in support of the Bay of Fundy Transportation Partnership and the Nova Scotia International Ferry Partnership's lobbying efforts to secure a long-term financial solution for the Digby-Saint John ferry service and the Yarmouth-Portland ferry service.

Forwarded to:  
*Premier's Office*

#### **RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for providing a copy of the resolution on ferry service and Point Lepreau from the November Annual Conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.*

*The Province's position on the Yarmouth ferry has not changed. If a sustainable option is identified, the government is prepared to look at what it can do to help.*

*In the past, the province supported the Yarmouth ferry with 22 million of taxpayers' money over three years. Those costs were rising and the number of riders diminished. It cost taxpayers about \$425 for each passenger debarking in Yarmouth. Since the discontinuation of the service, the ridership of the Digby ferry has grown and the number of New England visitors to the province has remained constant. The Province also remains open to ideas in partnership with stakeholders in south-western Nova Scotia to find an affordable and sustainable ferry solution, including the federal government, whose support is key to any proposal going forward.*

*The ferry between Digby and Saint John is an active file within Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, and the department is working with the federal government and the operator on a long-term solution for that service.*

*Thank you for taking the time to write and sharing this information on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, and for providing me with an opportunity to respond.*

*The Honourable Darrell Dexter  
Premier  
January 31, 2012*