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Municipalities

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NEWS RELEASE

For interviews or more information, contact:

Councillor Clarence Prince, President
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
Ph: 902-578-3804
Email: cprince@cbrm.ns.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNSM CONCERNED FOR YARMOUTH-NEW ENGLAND FERRY SERVICE

Halifax, January 20, 2010: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' Board of Directors recently discussed the Province's plan to discontinue subsidizing the Bay Ferry service between Yarmouth and New England. The Board agreed a full economic analysis is needed before a final decision is made and supports the current review. A municipal review showed that the service brought in \$170 million in tourist revenue over the past five years. "This ferry service is vital to tourism across the Province, as well as promoting commercial links," said UNSM President Clarence Prince.

The uncertainty is disconcerting as visitors begin to make 2010 vacation plans. Without the service, municipal leaders fear that numbers of visitors from New England will be dramatically reduced resulting in a major downsizing of tourism infrastructure. The impacts will be wide-spread across the Province.

The economic review of the service should be made public within the next couple of months.