

Resolution 34A

REMOVAL OF M.V. MINER BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (PASSED)

⇒ Town of Canso

WHEREAS the M.V. Miner was grounded on Scatarie Island during the month of September; and

WHEREAS the ship is considered a clear and present danger to Nova Scotia's coastal environment and regional fishery; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has not accepted any legal or financial responsibility for salvage or removal costs leaving same at the hands of Nova Scotia taxpayers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities support the Province of Nova Scotia in removing this potential danger to our environment and fishery at the earliest possible date at no cost to Nova Scotia taxpayers; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities support the efforts of Nova Scotia to have the Government of Canada accept legal and financial responsibility for similar navigational tragedies in the future.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Department of Environment; as well as Federation of Canadian Municipalities

RESPONSE (from Department of Environment):

Thank you for your November 21, 2011, letter regarding the Resolution passed at the recent Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' (UNSM) Annual Fall Conference. I offer the following response:

As the Department of Natural Resources is the lead department on the M.V. Miner incident, I am referring your request to the Honourable Charlie Parker, Minister of Natural Resources, for his department to respond.

Thank you for forwarding this resolution for my consideration.

*The Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister*

January 5, 2012

RESPONSE (from Department of Natural Resources):

The continued presence of the MV Miner is of concern to the province. Scatarie Island is home to an important fishery and a protected wilderness area and it is critical that everything possible is done to protect it. Recently, the province has been approached by a salvage company stating they are representing the owners of the MV Miner and the company has submitted a plan to remove the vessel. The plan is being reviewed by the province and our federal colleagues. We are responding to concerns that need to be addressed before any approval to proceed with a salvage activity can proceed. We are working to ensure the wilderness area and the interests of the province are protected, and those who caused the harm cover the cost of the cleanup. Aside from this salvage operation, the federal government needs to take action to review and revise their legislation concerning the towing of vessels to ensure we do not have a recurrence of a shipwreck landing on our shore.

*The Honourable Charlie Parker
Minister
January 10, 2012*