

June 4, 2026



The Honourable Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Transport
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Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

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Dear Minister MacKinnon,

www.tians.org

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS), we are writing to urge the Government of Canada to reiterate its support for the constitutional status of the marine link between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) that designates this service as essential and avert any strike action that would be devastating for the regional economy.

Unifor's request to eliminate Marine Atlantic as an essential service is directly contradictory to the constitutionally guaranteed ferry service under the Terms of Union negotiated when the province of NL joined Canada in 1949. Term 32 of the agreement specifically requires the Government of Canada to maintain this essential service. Considered an extension of the Trans-Canada highway, Marine Atlantic plays a critical role in the success of the regional tourism industry, and in the movement of people and goods between Nova Scotia and NL and beyond. The negative economic and social impact would be significant for the region and other parts of Canada.

As the gateway from North Sydney to NL, any interruption to service would have immediate and significant consequences for trade and tourism in the entire region. Nova Scotia's tourism economy generated \$3.7 billion in revenues in 2025 and supports more than 55,000 jobs. Reliable transportation links are critical in building confidence for both tourism and trade.

We respectfully ask the Federal government to assert its position quickly and firmly on this issue to avoid disruption in the supply chain and any effect on consumer confidence that will impact the travel link from Nova Scotia to NL.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Kevin Toth, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a final 'T'.

Kevin Toth
TIANS Chair

A blue ink signature of Darlene Grant Fiander, written in a cursive style.

Darlene Grant Fiander
TIANS President

cc: The Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families
The Hon. Dave Ritcey, NS Minister, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Maryse Tremblay, Board Chair, Canada Industrial Relations Board
Murray Hupman, President and CEO, Marine Atlantic
Craig Foley, CEO, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador
TIANS Board of Directors