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TIANS APPLAUDS CANADA-EUROPEAN UNION AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

HALIFAX, NS (December 11, 2008) – The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) applauds Transport Canada for establishing the new Canada-European Union Air Transportation Agreement. This deal will open access to Canada by eliminating regulatory restrictions on European carriers flying into Halifax and other Canadian destinations.

Transport Canada announced the agreement with European Union countries on December 16th. This partnership also includes eight EU Member States (Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia) which Canada did not previously have air agreements with.

TIANS recognizes the importance of the Canada-EU air transportation agreement which opens opportunities to enhance both trade and tourism, and secure Canada's competitiveness.

The tourism industry is greatly encouraged by the modernized approach to international air transportation taken by the federal government.

Accessible air transportation is a key strategic priority for the tourism industry to grow in Nova Scotia. The announcement of the Canada-EU air transport agreement provides opportunities to travelers in choosing destinations, flights and routes, and direct service from overseas.

"It is strategic partnerships, like the Canada-EU air agreement, that are needed for pursuing opportunities in international markets," says Danny Morton, Chairman of TIANS. "The industry has long advocated for a more liberalized air transportation policy and is greatly encouraged by the actions of government to reduce restrictions in air agreements."

The tourism industry in Nova Scotia generates \$1.3 billion in revenues, provides nearly 40,000 jobs, and contributes \$123.3 million in federal, provincial and municipal taxes.

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