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TIANS CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF THE CHIGNECTO GAME SANCTUARY

HALIFAX, NS (November 26, 2008) – The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) is asking the provincial government for a commitment to designate the Chignecto Game Sanctuary a legally-protected Wilderness Area.

As a Game Sanctuary there are limits on hunting and trapping, but no protection from resource extraction activities and development. TIANS is concerned that the Province has given an energy exploration company permission to conduct seismic testing within the Chignecto Game Sanctuary, opening the area up to potential further development. TIANS is also concerned with recent clearcutting in the Sanctuary.

The Chignecto Game Sanctuary is located in an area rich in the natural assets that draw visitors to Nova Scotia each year. It has high ecotourism potential and is bordered by the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro, the Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, and the recently designated UNESCO World Heritage site and museum at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. Protection of the Chignecto Game Sanctuary and the adjacent coastal Crown land is valuable from a tourism perspective.

“The protection of the Chignecto Game Sanctuary as a Wilderness Area would ensure the long-term sustainability of this important region,” says Danny Morton, Chairman of TIANS. “The protection of our natural resources is crucial for tourism as these regions represent the best of our tourism product.”

TIANS urges the provincial government to move closer to its goal to legally protect 12% of Nova Scotia’s landmass by 2015, by designating the Chignecto Game Sanctuary as a Wilderness Protection Area and placing an immediate moratorium on all further extraction activities until this is done.

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. Given the significance of tourism to Nova Scotia’s economy and its strong link to the health and beauty of our natural environment, the Association believes it is critical to safeguard our irreplaceable natural assets now and for future enjoyment.

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