

**Decision Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**

**Title:** 2024 Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games Insurance

**Decision/Direction Required:**

- Whether the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GNL) will commit to indemnifying the 2024 NL Games Host Committee (Host Committee) in the event they are found liable for any loss or damages above their insurance coverage.

**Background and Current Status:**

- The NL Games occur every two years, rotating between a summer and winter Games. The NL Games are a week-long multi-sport competition for youth ranging from ages 11-18. Each NL Games traditionally has 1500 athletes and coaches in total.
- GNL is responsible for naming the host community for the NL Games following a bid selection process. The NL Games are delivered in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR), Sport Newfoundland and Labrador (SportNL), a host community organizing committee, provincial sport organizations and hundreds of community volunteers.
- GNL provides a \$200,000 operating grant to each host of a NL Games. Any remaining revenue generation to support the hosting of the NL Games is the responsibility of the host community.
- After GNL announces the host location, Sport NL collaborates with the Host Committee to provide operational support. The NL Games has a policy and operations manual which serves as a guiding document in the delivery of the games for all stakeholders.
- The Town of Bay Roberts was originally awarded the 2020 NL Summer Games, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 NL Games were rescheduled to 2024. In April 2019, a contribution agreement for the 2020 NL Summer Games was signed by the former Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), and the Mayor of the Town of Bay Roberts. This agreement, which has been carried forward, provided the town with operational funding of \$200,000 for the Games.

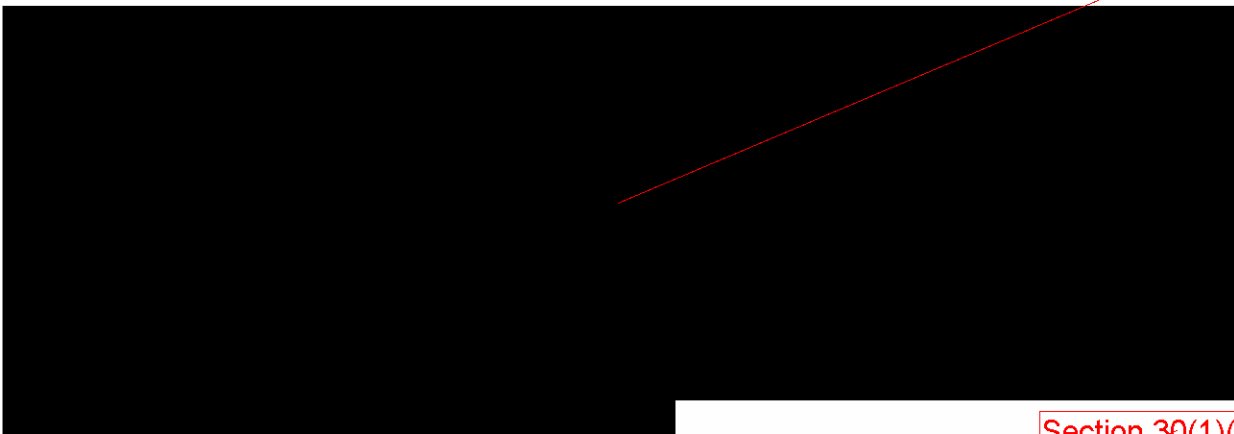
**Analysis:**

- The co-chair of the Host Committee, recently contacted TCAR and requested that GNL indemnify them if a claim was made over and above their insurance coverage. The co-chair suggested that the indemnification could also cover the Town of Bay Roberts.
- The request arose from the Host Committee's concern with securing transportation services with \$5M liability insurance coverage, on budget. The Host Committee issued a request for proposals (RFP) for transportation services requiring \$5M liability insurance coverage, and an agreement was eventually secured with Parsons and Sons Transportation, as opposed to another company with only \$2M in coverage. In addition to the transportation insurance, the Host Committee intends to secure a \$5M general liability policy with BFL Canada (BFL).

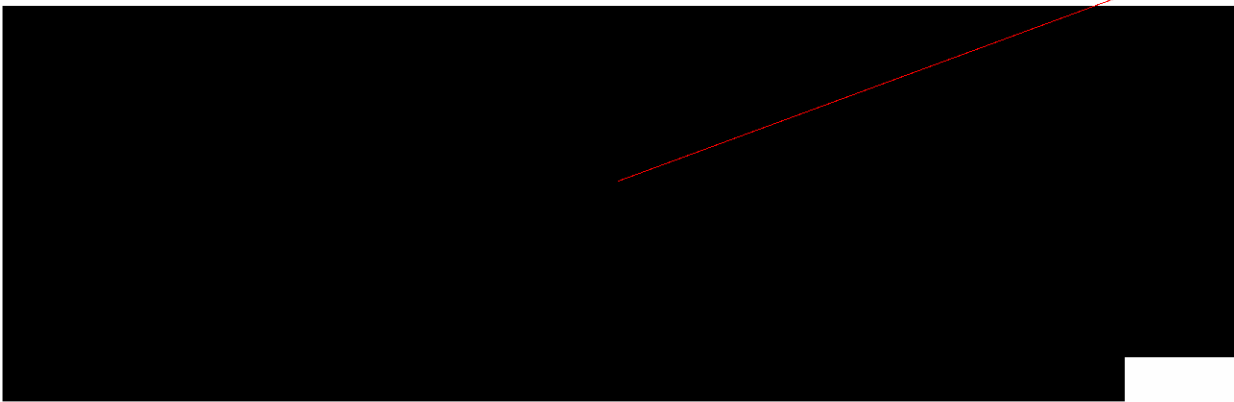
SportNL, as operations provider of the NL Games, also has a \$5M policy with BFL, that would apply to the Host Committee. Despite the insurance coverages, the Host Committee wants an assurance from GNL that they will be indemnified.

- In section 6 of the signed contribution agreement between GNL and the Town of Bay Roberts, it states that “The recipient shall obtain and maintain in force during the term of this agreement sufficient insurance adequate to cover its obligations under this agreement.”. Furthermore, it states that “The Recipient shall indemnify and save the Minister harmless from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, debts, damages, expenses, actions, suits or other proceedings and all liability arising there from.” The pertinent indemnity clauses of section 6 are outlined in Annex A.

Section 30(1)(a)(b)

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Section 30(1)(a)(b)

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- TCAR is unaware of any previous NL Games Host Committee making a similar request.

**Alternatives:**

1. Do not commit to indemnifying the Host Committee in the event they are found liable for any loss or damages above their insurance coverage. **(Recommended)**

Advantages

- Adheres to the indemnity clauses outlined in the signed contribution agreement.
- Aligns with current GNL policy related to contribution agreements and indemnification.

- Avoids setting a precedent for future NL Games.
- Avoids a potential financial liability.

#### Disadvantage

- The decision could be viewed negatively by the Host Committee.
2. Commit to indemnifying the Host Committee in the event they are found liable for any loss or damages above their insurance coverage. **(Not Recommended)**

#### Advantage

- The Host Committee would positively view the decision.

#### Disadvantages

- Does not adhere to the signed contribution agreement.
- Does not align with current GNL policy.
- Sets a precedent for future NL Games.
- Does not avoid a potential financial liability.

**Prepared/Approved by:** B. Taggart/A. Button/A. Wright/B. Gardner/J. O'Dea  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 2, 2024

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Annex A

## NL Games Contribution Agreement - Indemnity Clauses

6.1 The Minister shall not be liable for any death or injury of any kind to any person or persons or with respect to any loss of or damage to property arising out of any act or omission of the Recipient, its employees, servants or agents in the performance of his/her, its or their obligations under this Agreement. The Recipient shall indemnify and save the Minister harmless from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, debts, damages, expenses, actions, suits or other proceedings and all liability arising there from.

6.2 The Recipient shall obtain and maintain in force during the term of this Agreement sufficient insurance adequate to cover its obligations under this Agreement.

6.3 The Recipient's liability to indemnify or reimburse the Minister under the Agreement shall not affect or prejudice the Minister from exercising any other rights under law.

**Decision Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**

**Title:** 2025 Canada Games Mission Staff

**Decision/Direction Required:**

- Whether to announce the Team NL mission staff for the 2025 Canada Games.

**Background and Current Status:**

- The Canada Games is Canada's largest multi-sport event and the Games are held every two years alternating summer and winter. The first Canada Games took place in Quebec in 1967.
- The 2025 Canada Games are scheduled to take place in St. John's from August 8-24, 2025.
- Team NL will be comprised of approximately 400 athletes, coaches, managers and mission staff with Team NL competing in 17 different sports.
- The Team NL Chef Team was announced on April 12, 2024 and includes the following individuals:
  - Jamie Randell, Chef de Mission
  - Allison Sturge, Assistant Chef de Mission
  - Mike Summer, Assistant Chef de Mission
  - Frank Humber, Assistant Chef de Mission

**Analysis:**

- Mission staff applications were reviewed and recommendations are included in Annex A. 22 individuals are being recommended for mission staff. Gender and regional representation were both considered. The gender split of recommended mission staff is 13 males and 9 females.
- In preparation for a Canada Summer Games(CSG), an orientation session between mission staff and chef team members is usually held in advance of the games. Announcing the mission staff member in advance of the CSG, provides adequate time for mission staff members to interact with their assigned team and ensures planning and preparation timelines are adequate.

**Alternatives:**

1. Appoint 22 individuals to Team NL mission staff for the 2025 Canada Summer Games and approve the announcement of mission staff. **(Recommended)**

**Advantages**

- Planning and operational activities in preparation for the 2025 Canada Summer Games will proceed under similar timelines as previous Games.

**Disadvantages**

- No significant disadvantages have been identified.

2. Do not appoint mission staff for the 2025 Canada Summer Games. **(Not Recommended)**

Advantages

- No significant advantages have been identified.

Disadvantages

- Planning and operational activities in preparation for the 2025 Canada Summer Games would be significantly impacted and delayed.

**Prepared/Approved by:** B. Taggart/A. Button/B. Gardner/J. O'Dea  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 18, 2024

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**Annex A**  
2025 Canada Summer Games Team NL Mission Staff

NAME	HOMETOWN	EXPERIENCE
Brian Bennett	Conception Bay South	Coach - Volleyball (2013 and 2017) Coach - Volleyball, 2023 NAIG
Melissa Blackler	Twillingate	Mission Staff 2019, 2022, 2023 Canada Games High School coach in several sports
Josh Blackwood	Clareville	Coach - Beach Volleyball (2017), Mission Staff- 2023 NL Volleyball Association Board Member
Ellis Coles	Paradise	Mission Staff - 2011, 2017, 2022, 2023 Canada Games Games Manager for 2016 NL Summer Games
Brenda Congram	Goose Bay	Athlete - Shooting (2003, 2007) Mission Staff - 2017, 2019
David Crane	South River	Referee - Hockey (1999) Accommodations Director - 2024 NL Games
Bob Godden	St. John's	Coach - Gymnastics (1987, 1991) Mission Staff (1995, 2022, 2023)
Chad Hart	Paradise	Experience as coach, official and executive member Multi-sport experience in softball, baseball and ball hockey
Roger Head	St. John's	Manager - Wheelchair Basketball (2019) Involved with NL Basketball Association for 25 years
Paul Langdon	Gander	Mission Staff - 2023 Operations Manager for Telus Cup (Hockey)
Samantha Marsh	Paradise	Athlete - Shooting (2011, 2015) Mission Staff - 2022
Todd Martin	St. John's	Athlete - Lacrosse (1977) NL Games Manager (1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000)

Nancy Oliver	Milltown	Coach - Badminton (2019, 2023) Vice President of Badminton NL
Deidre Patey	Clareville	Manager - Hockey (2015, 2019) Mission Staff - 2022, 2023
Greg Pittman	Clareville	Mission Staff - 2013 Chair of 2014 NL Winter Games
Trent Pennell	Summerside	Apprentice Coach - 2019 Canada Games Mission Staff - 2023
Christine Rowe	Conception Bay South	NL Games Volunteer- 2016 Extensive volunteer experience in community
Danielle Shea	Stephenville Crossing	Manager - Athletics (2023 NAIG) Numerous hockey volunteer roles
Natasha Tipple	St. John's	Athlete - Curling (1995) Coordinator for Baccalieu Games
Jamie Tobin	Paradise	Athlete - 1995 (Hockey) and 1997 (Softball) Mission Staff - 2022, 2023
Angela Torraville	Mount Carmel	Athlete - 1989 (Basketball), Coach- 2022 (Basketball) Former police officer
Ethan Knight	St. John's	Athlete Assistant (2022 and 2023) Numerous volunteer roles in Basketball

**Information Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**

**Title:** 2024 Elite Athlete Assistance (EAA) Recommendations.

**Issue:** Requesting the Minister to review EAA recommendations and sign attached funding letters.

**Background and Current Status:**

- The EAA program is one component of the Athletic Excellence Fund (AEF), designed to support high performance athletes.
- The AEF is application based, with financial support provided to athletes selected to compete for Canada internationally or have been identified by Sport Canada to receive support under the Athlete Assistant Program. Recommended funding amounts are based on established criteria used each year to determine funding recommendations.
- Eligible athletes must be currently training and competing in their sport and intend to continue to train upon receipt of their award. The EAA program is designed for applicants up to 30 years of age.
- The EAA program administers individual grants to athletes in the range of \$2,000 to \$5,000.

**Analysis**

- A total of 321 applications were received under the AEF program. Of those 321, 31 athletes applied for consideration for EAA funding.
- The EAA program has a budget of \$45,000 available in 2024-25 and a total of \$31,000 in funding is being recommended. A chart summarizing recommended recipients and funding amounts for EAA are included in Annex A.

**Action Being Taken:**

- Minister Crocker to sign enclosed letters notifying athletes they are receiving support under the EAA program.

**Prepared / Approved by:** B. Taggart/A. Button/A. Wright/B. Gardner/J. O'Dea  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 3, 2024

**Annex A**  
**Elite Athlete Assistance Recommendations**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
Baseball	Lee	Jaida	Member of Senior National Team	\$2,000
Basketball	Reid	Sarah	Member of U16 National Team, Sport Canada Carded Athlete (D)	\$3,500
Boccia	Collins	Kristyn	Member of National Team, Competed at Para Pan Ams	\$2,000
Boccia	Martin	Lois	Member of National Team, Competed at Para Pan Ams	\$2,000
Hockey	Newhook	Abby	Member of National Development Team, NCAA Division 1 Athlete	\$2,000
Para - Hockey	Hickey	Liam	Member of National Team, Sport Canada Carded Athlete (SR2)	\$5,000
Rugby	McCarthy	John	Member of National Team, Sport Canada Carded Athlete (D)	\$3,500
Softball	Green	Adrian	Member of U18 National Team	\$2,000
Softball	Stack	Mark	Member of U23 National Team	\$2,000
Para - Swimming	Roxon	Katarina	Bronze at 2023 World Championships, Sport Canada Carded Athlete (SR1)	\$5,000
Swimming	Weeks	Chris	Member of Junior National Team	\$2,000
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>

**Information Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**

**Title:** 2024 ParticipACTION Community Challenge

**Issue:** To provide an update to the Minister on the national 2024 ParticipACTION Community Challenge, including the provincial/territorial selection and announcement process naming the provincial Most Active Community Award.

**Background and Current Status:**

- ParticipACTION is a national non-profit organization, whose mission is to inspire Canadians to sit less and move more. Established in 1971, ParticipACTION works with public and private partners, including various levels of governments, non-profit sport, physical activity, recreation organizations and private industry to promote the need for daily physical activity.
- Since 2014 - 15, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has had an annual partnership with ParticipACTION, to increase the awareness of the importance of physical activity levels to our overall health and well-being for all ages.
- The Community Challenge (Challenge) delivered by ParticipACTION, is a nationwide challenge targeting Canadians of all ages to be active during the month of June. The Challenge targets individuals via communities, schools, sport and recreation organizations to participate and a \$100,000 prize is awarded to the national winner, with provincial/territorial (PT) winners also receiving recognition.
- The 2023 - 24 GNL ParticipACTION partnership, consisted of a small amount of provincial funding (\$7,500) for the Challenge, with \$15,000 awarded to the "Most Active Community" in NL, provincial webinars and a digital media campaign encouraging residents of Newfoundland and Labrador to get involved in the Challenge.
- Nine of thirteen P/Ts provided \$7,500 to ParticipACTION for the Challenge, with funding matched by ParticipACTION, enabling a \$15,000 prize to be awarded to the 'Most Active Community' in participating P/Ts. Prize winners from a P/T that did not contribute matching funding would only receive an award of \$7,500.

**Analysis**

- Over 15,000 residents in NL participated in the Challenge from 87 different communities in NL participating in the challenge. Over 22 million move minutes were tracked during this year's challenge by residents of NL.
- 24 organizations from NL received grants from ParticipACTION totaling over \$27,000 to host events/activities during the challenge.
- Recreation NL, as a partner involved with the partnership, promoted the challenge through their social media networks and membership newsletters.
- TCAR officials worked with various partners including School Health Promotion Liaison Consultants, NL Health Services staff, Active Schools and other relevant partners to promote of the challenge throughout their networks.

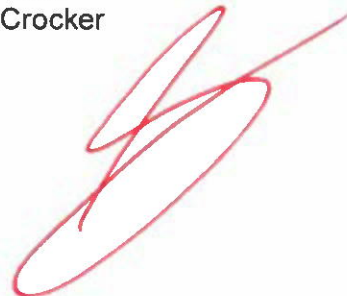
- Four finalist communities from NL (50 in total from across the country) were included in the running for Canada's Most Active Community (prize valued at \$100,000); Town of Carbonear, Miawpukek Innu First Nation, Town of Paradise, and the City of St. John's.
- The Town of Carbonear was selected as the Newfoundland and Labrador Most Active Community. While the Town of Carbonear are aware of this, the information is **EMBARGOED** and scheduled to be announced publicly via a national press release from ParticipACTION on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 8:00 am EST.
- The selection process to determine specific winners was completed by ParticipACTION. The list of 50 national finalists was determined and shared publicly by ParticipACTION, after considering the following national criteria: total activities tracked, average activities tracked by population, total number of participants, average number of participants by population, total number of organizations, and average number of organizations by population.
- A selection committee comprised of representatives from the national recreation, sport and physical activity sector was used to determine Canada's Most Active Community and P/T winners.
- Each of the 50 finalist communities were asked to submit a written submission to ParticipACTION, outlining the active engagement of the community during the Challenge and reasons why the community was deserving to be selected as the winner. Submission of documentation on organized community efforts and information on how the community would use prize money, was also factored into the selection process for the PT and national Most Active Community winner.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will be recognized in the following ways for their contribution to the ParticipACTION Community Challenge:
  - Recognition through a national email blast that announces all winning communities and provides text recognition of NL support;
  - Recognition on the digital certificate presented to the finalists and winning NL community; and
  - Recognition on the ParticipACTION website.
- TCAR Communications Division plan to coordinate a press release about the winning NL community and the four finalist communities after the national announcement is released by ParticipACTION at 8:00 am EST on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

**Action Being Taken:**

- This note is for information purposes only.

**Prepared / Approved by:** A. Button/ B. Gardner/ J. O'Dea  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 18, 2024



**Information Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**

**Title:** 2024 - 25 Provincial Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport Funding

**Issue:** Approval is required for 2024 - 25 Provincial Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport Funding (PARS)

**Background and Current Status:**

- The Provincial Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport (PARS) annual funding program promotes and supports physical activity, recreation and sport delivery systems. It is designed for provincial organizations that have a primary mandate for physical activity, recreation and/or sport.
- The PARS annual funding program is approved following evaluation of funding submissions from the following organizations: Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador (RNL), Sport Newfoundland and Labrador (SNL), School Sports Newfoundland and Labrador (SSNL), and the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle of Newfoundland and Labrador (ASRCNL).
- Annual submissions are assessed to determine eligibility of proposed activities and alignment with priorities of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR). Submission requirements include work plans, budgets, and performance measurement outcomes.
- Upon funding approval, a detailed Contribution Agreement is drafted for signature between both parties. Funds are disbursed to the recipient in three installments:
  - 60% upon approval;
  - 30% upon receipt of the mid-term report; and
  - 10% upon receipt of the final report submission.

**Analysis:**

- The initiatives recommended for funding in 2024 - 25 were all funded in 2023-24. Required funding is available in the Recreation and Sport Division's Grants and Subsidies budget.
- A breakdown of the \$2.41M in funding is as follows: RNL - \$510,000; SNL - \$870,000; SSNL - \$655,000; and ASRCNL - \$375,000. Annex A includes detailed information regarding each funded initiative.
- Six of the recommended initiatives are part of the Government of Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation 2024-2026, which is a multi-year agreement. A total of \$413,065 is being matched by the Government of Canada to support these initiatives in 2024-25.
- While some new funding requests were received from SSNL and SNL, the requests were not considered at this time due to budgetary constraints, however the requests may be considered as part of the 2025 - 26 budget process.

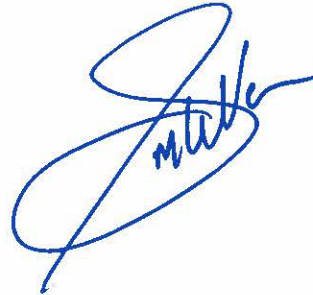
**Action Being Taken:**

- Minister Crocker to review and consider recommendations provided in Annex A. Funding letters and contribution agreements have been drafted and are enclosed for the Minister's signature if approval is granted.

**Prepared/approved by:**  
**Ministerial Approval:**

A. Button/A. Wright/ B. Gardner/ J. O'Dea  
Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 24, 2024

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**Annex A: 2024 - 25 Provincial Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport Funding**

<b>Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>2024 - 25 Recommended</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Recreation Month	\$10,000	A promotional campaign designed to promote the benefits and value of recreation to individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities. This commitment aligns with the FPT Framework for Recreation in Canada – Pathways to Well-being (2015).
Active Living Leadership	\$115,000	Funding for initiatives centered around increasing physical activity in targeted populations, including the development of a provincial Active Living Leadership Network, promotional communications campaign, Active For Life facilitator training and providing grants to organizations and communities designed to support increased levels of physical activity in youth ages 13 - 19.
Leadership Development, Training and Strategic Initiatives	\$105,000	Support for training and education in the following areas: High Five; Online training modules. Recreation NL AGM and Conference; NL Practitioner Forum and Volunteer Recreation Leader Training Program.  To support provincial implementation of “A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing” and the common priority areas identified.
Recreation & Sport for Persons with a Disability (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation)	\$150,000	Provides a coordinated and focused approach in providing supports for physical activity, recreation and sport opportunities for persons with a disability including funding programs, You Can Play Too Course offerings, stakeholder meeting and communication activities.
Eat Great and Participate	\$130,000	Promotes healthy eating among children and youth and aims to increase access to healthy food and beverage choices in recreation, sport and community facilities and events. There will be a grant program to support communities in offering more healthy food and beverage options, Making the Move to Healthy Choices workshops and communications campaigns.
<b>Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>\$510,000</b>	

Sport Newfoundland and Labrador	2024 - 25 Recommended	Notes
IT Support	\$20,000	IT support to all federations and PSOs located at 1296A Kenmount Road.
Financial Director's Support	\$65,000	To provide financial advice and support to Sport Newfoundland and Labrador, PSOs and the Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Centre.
Games Coordinator	\$75,000	Funding for the Games Coordinator position. The Games Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the NL Games, in collaboration with the Host organizing committee and PSOs. This position also oversees and coordinates administration and logistical elements for Team NL's participation in the Canada Games.
Sport for Life/Coaching Coordinator	\$85,000	Funding to support the Sport for Life Project Leader / Coaching Coordinator position, with responsibility for implementation / delivery of Sport for Life and coach education programs including the National Coaching Certification Program.
Sport Development	\$60,000	Funding for the Sport Development Specialist position, which focuses on sport development and governance for PSOs.
KidSport NL	\$85,000	Grant program designed to reduce barriers, including the cost of sport registration fees and equipment, that negatively impacts youth participation in sport.
SportFest	\$10,000	A fully interactive sporting event offering opportunities for children and youth to participate and learn about the importance of sport and physical activity.
Sport Hosting	\$10,000	To support hosting of National and International sporting events through Sport NL partnership with the Sport Tourism Event Partnership.
Premier's Athletic Awards	\$95,000	Designed to recognize athletic excellence of the province's athletes. Financial support is provided to select athletes to help with costs incurred through training and competition. Funding is provided to support the Administration of the Premier's Athletic Awards program.
Coaching NL	\$55,000	To support, enhance and deliver coach education and coaching development throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.
National Championship Travel Subsidy (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation)	\$80,000	Provides financial assistance to offset travel and accommodations expenses for Newfoundland and Labrador athletes participating in national championships.
Canada Games Task Force	\$90,000	Funding provides capacity for athletes and teams, which are identified to

		achieve a Top 6 finish. Funding supports key areas including coach training, high performance experts, exhibition competitions and other supports, which have been identified as increasing capacity of teams to contend for medals through specialized preparation and planning.
Canada Games Operations	\$140,000	Support the preparation and logistics associated with Team Newfoundland and Labrador's participation at the Canada Games.
<b>Sport Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>\$870,000</b>	

School Sports Newfoundland and Labrador	2024 - 25 Recommended	Notes
Participation Nation (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation)	\$525,000	<p><b>Participation Nation (PN)</b> is intended to compliment the physical education / health programs that schools are already offering. PN is designed to engage the natural energy of students, channeling it into an experience that is fun, inclusive, non-competitive, and contributes to the achievement of a healthy lifestyle. PN fosters a welcoming environment where all participating students are encouraged and supported for their participation. PN offers different programs for specific demographics as well as a training program for student leaders and community facilitators who administer programs at the local school level.</p> <p><b>Play 4 Fun</b> Play 4 Fun is one of PN's Development Programs and has been designed for students in grades K-3. This facilitator-run program takes place over the course of 16-25 weeks and focuses on teaching fundamental movements and skills. Parents/Guardians join in on the fun and take part in a variety of activities with the students.</p> <p><b>Primary Achievement Program</b> The Primary Achievement program is one of PN's Core programs. Designed for students in grades 2-3, Primary Achievement focuses on</p>

		<p>developing the physical literacy of a student, encouraging them to participate in sport and physical activity, and overall inspiring them to lead active, healthy lives.</p> <p><b>Elementary Pin Winners Program</b>                  The Elementary Pin Winners program is one of PN's core programs. Designed for students in grades 4-6, Pin Winners is an extra-curricular, inclusive program that rewards participation. The program serves as a motivator for participants to lead active, healthy lives while building self-esteem through inclusion and encouragement.</p> <p><b>PN Un-Plugged</b>                  This program takes place twice a week for 16 - 25 weeks in the after-school time slot. The primary focus of PN Unplugged is unplugging students from their devices and reducing the amount of screen time they are exposed to, all while encouraging them to be physically active.</p> <p><b>PN Pursuits</b>                  PN Pursuits provides access to funding for established initiatives needing financial support to help increase participation in physical activities and encourage healthy, active lifestyles.</p> <p><b>PN Outdoor Adventures</b>                  PN Outdoor Adventures is designed for students in grades 7-9. This program runs for 8 weeks and is scheduled for the after-school time slot. The primary focus of Outdoor Adventures is reconnecting students with nature while teaching wilderness tips and survival skills.</p> <p><b>Sprockids</b>                  Sprockids is designed for students in grades 4-6. This program runs for 8 weeks and is scheduled for the after-school time slot. The primary focus of Sprockids is to educate students on cycling safety and etiquette, while also teaching riding skills and bicycle maintenance. Students build their practical knowledge of cycling while learning important life skills like problem solving and decision making. The program also promotes positive values such as respect for others and responsibility for the environment.</p>
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Coaching in NL Schools	\$10,000	SSNL, in conjunction with the Coaching Association of Canada, offers coaching in NL schools through Professional Development courses, which supports coaches in the school system dealing with the specific educational sport programs.
Intra - Provincial Travel Subsidy (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation)	\$120,000	Designed to offset the cost of ground travel for teams and individual student athletes participating in SSNL Provincial Championships. The subsidy is administered based on the travel distance required to attend the championships.
<b>School Sports Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>	

<b>Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle of Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>2024-25 Recommended</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Aboriginal Sport Development (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation)	\$102,000	Funding to support and encourage physically active communities, expand access to sport and recreation opportunities and increase the capacity of Aboriginal athletes, coaches, and officials.
Aboriginal Capacity and Leadership (Bilateral Agreement on Sport Participation – Indigenous Supplement)	\$273,000	Funding to strengthen Indigenous capacity and leadership of the ASRCNL.
<b>Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle of Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	

**Meeting Note**  
**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation**  
**Meeting with Minister Rodriguez**  
**July 5, 2024, 12:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual via Microsoft Teams or Conference Call**

**Attendees:** Minister Steve Crocker, TCAR  
Jamie O'Dea, Deputy Minister, TCAR  
Carol-Ann Gilliard, ADM, TCAR  
The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport (Bio Annex A)  
Craig Foley, CEO, Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador

**Purpose of Meeting:** This will be an opportunity to discuss the recent challenges with the new Marine Atlantic Inc. (MAI) vessel, Ala'suinu, and the ongoing issue of limited capacity with the service in peak tourism season. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of MAI to Newfoundland and Labrador's transportation network and challenges with limited capacity and redundancy on the service, which impedes NL economic growth.

**Background:**

- Under the Terms of Union with Canada, the federal government is obligated to maintain a ferry service between Channel-Port aux Basques and North Sydney, NS. MAI is a federal Crown Corporation that provides this service on a year-round basis, as well as a seasonal service between Argentia and North Sydney.
- MAI operates a fleet of four ice-class ferries: the MV Blue Puttees, MV Highlanders, MV Leif Ericson and the newly acquired vessel, Ala'suinu, which replaces the MV Vision.
- The Corporation reports annually to the Government of Canada through the Minister of Transport. MAI's head office is in St. John's with additional office locations in Channel-Port aux Basques and North Sydney.
- MAI operates within a strict regulatory environment. The federal Financial Administration Act, the Marine Atlantic Inc. Acquisition Authorization Act, and the federal government's National Marine Policy dictate a framework for the corporation's affairs. In tandem with this legislation, MAI's articles of incorporation, by-laws and mission statement guide the Board of Directors and management in their decision making. The Board provides the overall policy direction for the corporation.
- As a federal Crown Corporation, MAI receives an annual subsidy from its shareholder, the Government of Canada, through Transport Canada.
- MAI has raised concerns in the past about its ability to meet the cost recovery target of 65 per cent as set by the shareholder (Federal Government). In May 2024, MAI was notified by the Minister of Transport that the cost-recovery policy was discontinued.
- In early February 2024, MAI took delivery of its newest vessel, the Ala'suinu, which arrived in April. The new vessel will primarily operate out of Argentia's summer service and out of Port Aux Basques for fall, winter and spring.

- The *Ala'suinu* has 146 passenger cabins (including 31 pet friendly cabins), 40 passenger pods, a variety of food service options, seating lounges, a children's play area, and a kennel for pets.
- On May 31, MAI announced that an issue was identified with the *Ala'suinu's* lubrication system. Due to the need to complete the necessary work and integration activities, MAI anticipated impacts to the Argentia service. On June 6, MAI announced that the first sailing of the 2024 Argentia service will be delayed until June 26. Subsequently, there were two further delays to July 3 and now to July 10.
- In order to accommodate Argentia customers impacted by the delay, MAI is adjusting its schedule on the Port aux Basques service to add additional crossings to increase available capacity during this period.
- It is anticipated with the new Port aux Basques schedule, all Argentia passengers can be accommodated on a crossing on the same day as their Argentia booking and that no passenger should be off their original schedule by more than 5 hours. However, they may not be able to secure a cabin or pet friendly cabin.
- MAI assures that customers with crossing times more than 5 hours from their original crossing time will receive compensation in accordance with Marine Atlantic policy.

#### **Agenda item #1 – Capacity on the MAI service and the delay of the new vessel**

- Discussion regarding the challenges with the new vessel and overall limited capacity for growth on the MAI service.

#### **Analysis**

- For Newfoundland and Labrador, MAI is one of the most important transportation systems, providing services on two routes: a year-round ferry service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney and a seasonal (June to September) ferry service between Argentia and North Sydney.
- In 2023, Newfoundland and Labrador achieved recovery from the pandemic in terms of visitation and spending, receiving a total of 534,300 non-resident visitors. This is 14 percent above 2022 levels, and 2 percent above 2019. Of this total, 113,600 visitors by vehicle/ferry, approximately 20 percent.
- Auto visitation has seen strong growth throughout the pandemic years, up 3 percent over 2022 and 21 percent above 2019 levels. Spending by auto visitors is up 7 percent from 2022 and actually 40 percent higher than in 2019.
- Auto vacation visitors are particularly important to Newfoundland and Labrador because average spending by auto visitors is generally always higher than air visitor spending because they have longer stays and larger travel parties.
- Annex B provides a historical overview of MAI Passenger Movements, Ferry Crossings and Non-Resident Auto Visitation.

### Potential Speaking Points

- MAI's announcement of service impacts on the Argentia route is happening at an incredibly busy and critically important tourism season, when thousands of people are traveling to and from the province this summer.
- While MAI is offering an alternative route for passengers to travel to and from Newfoundland and Labrador, re-routed visitors will now face a different port of entry and exit, with 852 km of road travel between Port aux Basques and Argentia.
- This will not only impact tourism industry bookings and sales, but also visitors' itineraries and travel plans. There is also great concern that the reputational damage from this situation could influence potential visitors to reconsider their future travel plans to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- In addition, the enhanced schedule through Port aux Basques is putting additional strain on the system as the three working vessels are making more crossings and staff are working more hours than the regular schedule.
- Newfoundland and Labrador has a targeted and assertive strategy for growing visitation, spending and resilience in the tourism industry – Vision 2026.
- Auto visitation, which has seen substantial growth since 2021, is an important market as these visitors stay longer, have larger party sizes and spend more than other modes of travel.
- There is very little room for further growth in auto visitation, as the current MAI system is nearing capacity.
- In order to achieve our growth targets and to instill a sense of confidence in travellers, it is critical to maintain an affordable and reliable ferry service, with increased capital investment to provide redundancies in the system and extra capacity.
- It is important that the Federal Government provide adequate funding for MAI so that the service can keep pace with the increased demand and provide redundancy so that disruptions, such as the one with the 2024 Argentia crossing, does not impede economic growth for the province.
- I am asking the Government of Canada to provide any necessary resources to help MAI respond to this current situation and mitigate the negative perception it creates for travel to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- It is incumbent upon Transport Canada and MAI come up with a better, more permanent solution to the lack of capacity in serving the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Prepared/Approved by:** C. Gilliard/J. O'Dea  
**Ministerial Approval:** Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

July 3, 2024

**ANNEX A – The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez****Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant**

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Honoré-Mercier in 2004. He has previously served as Minister of Canadian Heritage, as Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, and as Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism.

Minister Rodriguez is known for his work to support the fight against climate change, protect and promote culture, and promote official languages and minority rights.

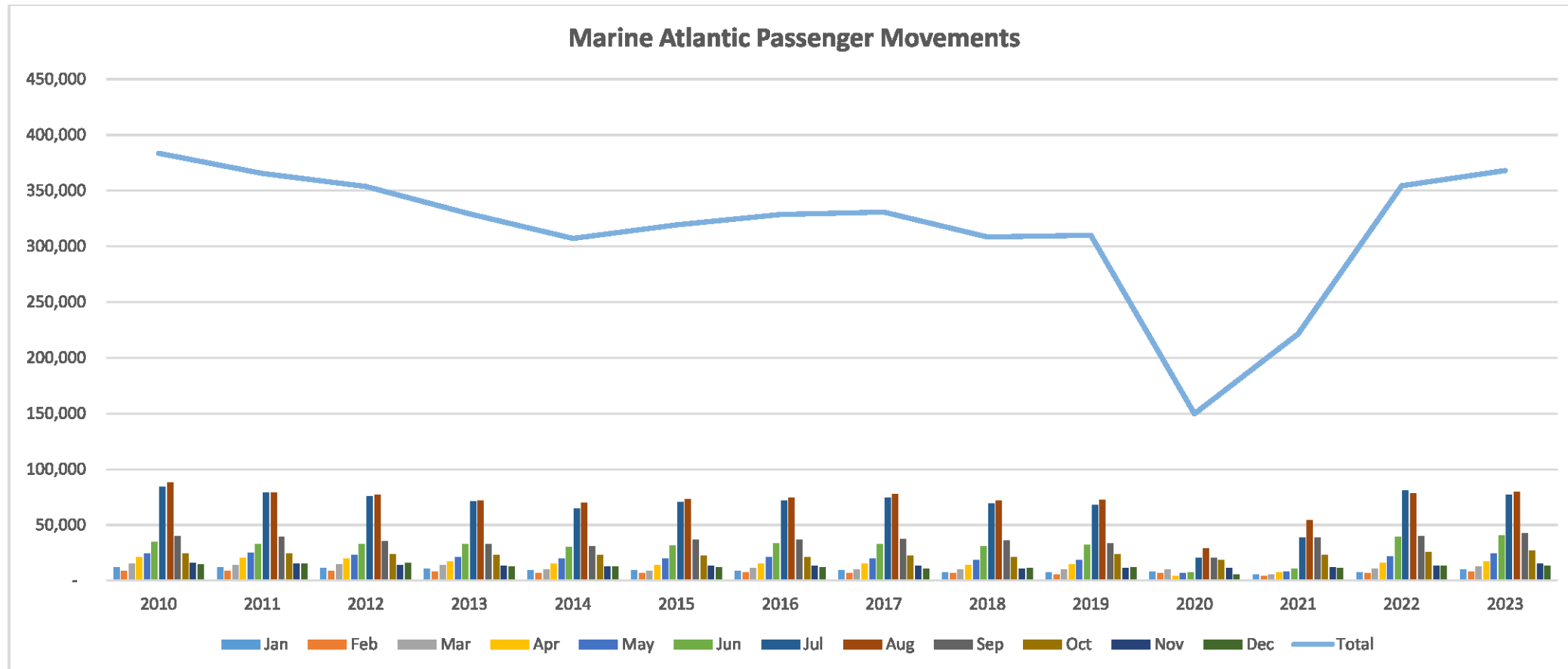
A graduate in business administration, Minister Rodriguez began his career in the field of international development working for a Montréal-based non-governmental organization. In this role, he was responsible for managing and evaluating development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

The importance Minister Rodriguez has placed on aid to developing countries and his commitment to the fight against poverty has led him to collaborate with many organizations, such as Oxfam-Québec, where he served as Vice-President of the Board for over four years. He then became Vice-President and Associate of a public affairs firm, where he was responsible for numerous projects in Canada and abroad. Between 2011 and 2015, Minister Rodriguez worked in the environment sector.

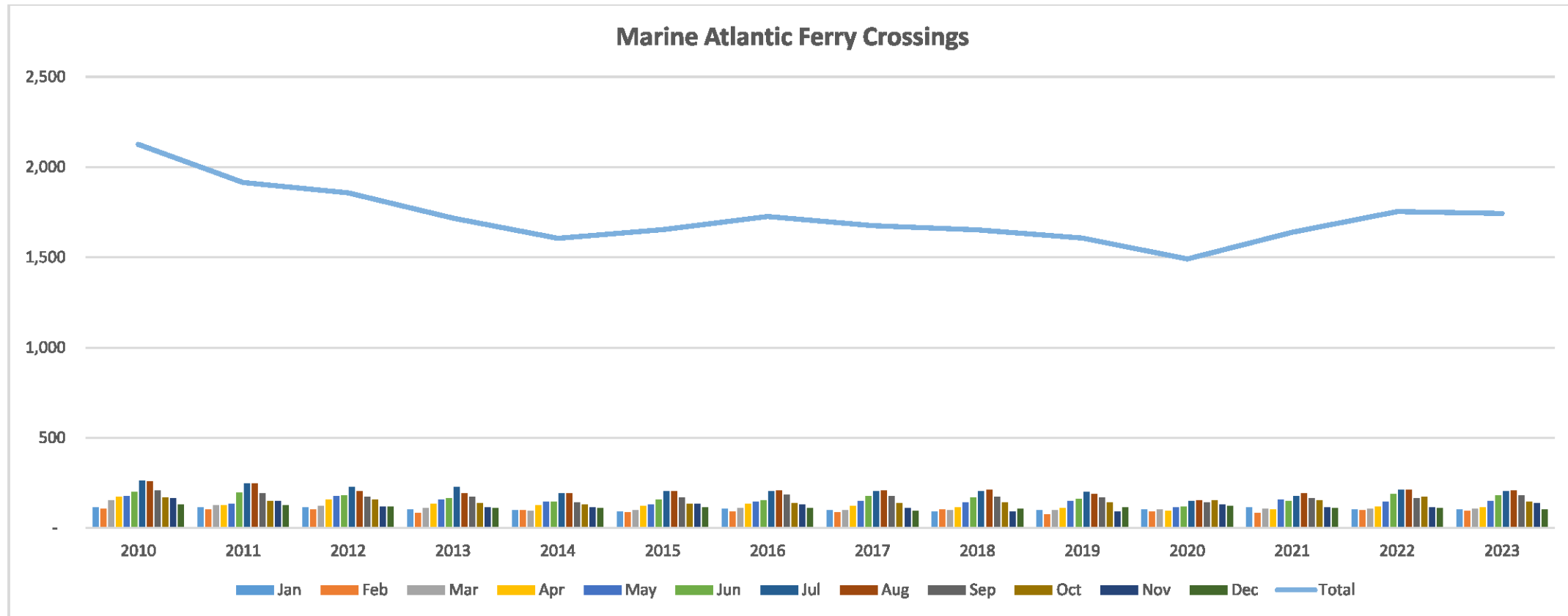
Minister Rodriguez is fluent in French, English, and Spanish, and is currently learning Italian.

**ANNEX B – Marine Atlantic Inc. Historical Passenger Movements, Ferry Crossings, Auto Visitation**

<b>Marine Atlantic Passenger Movements</b>														
<b>Includes Port-aux-Basques - North Sydney and Argentia - North Sydney routes; both directions</b>														
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Jan	11,793	11,942	11,675	10,811	9,512	9,329	9,094	9,542	7,410	7,744	8,252	5,807	7,437	10,404
Feb	8,914	8,903	9,171	8,099	6,981	6,716	7,862	7,124	7,060	5,812	7,180	4,357	6,752	8,060
Mar	15,258	14,066	14,453	13,929	10,350	8,738	11,281	9,835	9,903	10,134	9,906	5,326	11,003	12,655
Apr	21,239	20,578	20,048	17,241	15,540	14,286	15,243	15,446	13,881	14,438	4,336	7,611	16,080	17,177
May	24,560	24,820	23,469	21,324	19,974	19,671	21,168	19,580	18,385	18,366	6,595	8,484	22,146	24,227
Jun	34,591	32,747	33,150	32,639	30,228	31,529	33,620	33,032	31,027	32,427	7,579	10,979	39,148	40,924
Jul	84,154	79,088	75,603	71,107	65,063	70,770	72,066	74,454	69,346	68,160	20,540	38,516	81,053	77,132
Aug	88,188	79,067	77,029	71,919	70,245	73,177	74,427	77,489	71,980	72,429	28,757	54,273	78,611	79,528
Sep	39,989	39,100	35,338	33,136	30,746	36,956	36,777	37,461	35,968	33,597	20,748	39,071	39,962	42,483
Oct	24,170	24,351	23,885	22,999	23,012	22,624	21,389	22,367	20,972	23,648	18,653	23,378	25,615	27,161
Nov	15,916	15,213	14,221	13,473	13,043	13,337	13,692	13,311	10,891	11,350	11,619	12,087	13,256	15,099
Dec	14,804	15,522	15,680	12,644	12,563	12,080	11,909	11,071	11,618	11,804	5,671	11,707	13,398	13,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,576</b>	<b>365,397</b>	<b>353,722</b>	<b>329,321</b>	<b>307,257</b>	<b>319,213</b>	<b>328,528</b>	<b>330,712</b>	<b>308,441</b>	<b>309,909</b>	<b>149,836</b>	<b>221,596</b>	<b>354,461</b>	<b>368,039</b>
Source: Marine Atlantic Traffic Reports														
<b>Notes:</b> Passenger limits during 2020 to 2022 due to COVID pandemic (limits removed in May 2022)														



<b>Marine Atlantic Ferry Crossings</b>														
<b>Includes Port-aux-Basques - North Sydney and Argentia - North Sydney routes; both directions</b>														
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Jan	116	116	114	102	98	93	108	100	90	98	105	116	105	105
Feb	108	104	104	86	100	89	90	87	103	78	92	86	99	94
Mar	153	126	122	112	94	98	112	98	101	100	104	106	106	108
Apr	172	127	158	134	128	123	134	123	114	110	94	105	121	117
May	177	133	176	158	148	132	148	152	142	151	116	160	148	150
Jun	201	196	181	164	145	159	156	176	170	161	120	152	188	183
Jul	264	246	229	227	195	203	203	206	206	202	152	176	213	205
Aug	261	246	203	192	194	203	208	210	213	189	156	192	212	208
Sep	209	194	172	173	144	170	185	179	173	170	144	166	165	182
Oct	170	150	159	140	132	134	140	140	142	143	154	155	172	148
Nov	166	150	121	116	116	134	132	111	91	90	132	116	114	140
Dec	129	126	118	113	112	116	110	94	107	115	122	110	110	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>1,743</b>



<b>Non-resident Auto Visitation</b>														
<b>Includes Port-aux-Basques - North Sydney and Argentina - North Sydney routes</b>														
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Jan	3,874	3,897	3,610	3,625	2,919	2,812	2,554	2,562	1,863	2,300	2,511	1,384	2,079	2,760
Feb	1,970	2,084	2,165	1,883	1,578	1,559	1,701	1,554	1,373	1,146	1,746	1,117	1,510	1,886
Mar	3,479	3,185	3,759	3,349	2,470	2,067	2,530	2,355	2,195	1,937	2,262	1,262	2,738	3,217
Apr	4,078	3,796	3,796	3,431	2,908	2,916	2,991	3,020	2,651	2,515	955	1,590	3,347	3,564
May	5,151	5,278	4,690	4,523	4,106	3,609	4,240	4,037	3,582	3,655	1,485	1,782	4,341	5,074
Jun	8,151	8,113	7,898	7,639	7,181	7,641	8,735	8,313	7,593	7,685	1,531	2,030	10,014	10,633
Jul	25,426	22,474	22,017	21,222	19,725	20,915	21,458	22,830	20,860	20,780	4,296	9,109	24,568	23,817
Aug	35,860	30,985	30,943	29,069	27,629	29,849	30,857	31,119	28,342	28,989	8,418	18,159	32,746	30,950
Sep	14,120	13,856	12,881	11,822	11,247	11,995	13,479	13,559	13,193	12,532	5,779	14,525	15,339	16,242
Oct	7,650	7,614	7,383	7,476	7,516	7,573	6,952	7,357	6,761	7,495	5,320	8,360	7,983	8,776
Nov	3,645	3,673	3,507	3,344	2,848	3,042	3,159	2,973	2,500	2,479	2,950	2,886	3,161	3,726
Dec	2,785	3,097	3,548	2,531	2,517	2,405	2,348	2,220	2,384	2,305	1,298	2,467	2,798	2,953
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,189</b>	<b>108,052</b>	<b>106,197</b>	<b>99,914</b>	<b>92,644</b>	<b>96,383</b>	<b>101,004</b>	<b>101,899</b>	<b>93,297</b>	<b>93,818</b>	<b>38,551</b>	<b>64,671</b>	<b>110,624</b>	<b>113,598</b>

