



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate release*

**Thursday, October 1, 2009**

### **Board opposes fuel surcharge hike by Marine Atlantic**

The St. John's Board of Trade expressed its disappointment with, and opposition to, an increase to the fuel surcharge by Marine Atlantic. The surcharge has more than doubled, from six per cent, to 13.6%, driving up costs for people and businesses on both sides of the Gulf.

“Again, we see costs being passed on to travelers and businesses on the Island but also on the mainland,” said Board Chair Bruce Templeton. “As much as these costs hurt the economy we have been building in Newfoundland and Labrador, they also hurt the economies of our Atlantic partners and other Canadian provinces. I’m not sure the federal government fully understands those implications.”

The Board of Trade is working to raise this issue on the national level through its participation this weekend in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting. Board representatives – Senior Vice Chair Derek Sullivan and Chief Executive Officer Nancy Healey – will be putting the national economic case for Marine Atlantic investment forward to their colleagues to get national advocacy work going on this issue.

“As an island, we have limited travel and transportation options. Making it more costly to move passengers and goods is counter-productive to continuing to build an economy that makes a net contribution to the country.”

The St. John's Board of Trade is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that is the principal voice of business for over 700 members in the St. John's area. Its mission is to improve the local business climate, enhancing its members' ability to do business through advocacy and member services.

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