



For Immediate Release - Friday, June 21, 2024

Second Disruption in Marine Atlantic Ferry Service Expected to Impact Tourism Economy

The Marine Atlantic Ferry Service has announced another unexpected disruption in its operations due to required maintenance which will significantly affect the transportation options available to tourists and residents alike. Effective immediately, the anticipated arrival of the new vessel Ala'Suinu is experiencing a second delay. While Marine Atlantic Inc. is working diligently to resolve the issue and restore normal operations as soon as possible, the duration of the disruption remains uncertain. The first date of delay for the arrival of the new vessel was June 26th. Marine Atlantic Inc. has now confirmed there will be an additional delay scheduled for July 3rd 2024. These unstable timelines are proven to be disappointing for travellers relying on this service.

Mayor, Keith Pearson expressed regret over the situation, stating, "our ferry service plays a critical role in connecting our community and supporting our tourism industry. We are doing everything in our power to address the problem and minimize the impact on our residents and visitors, including advocating for another vessel to fill this gap in service. Another available vessel for the interim is crucial. With the tourism industry grown accustomed to upwards of three thousand visitors per week, this will be an economic shock to the business community, region and province."

The disruption in ferry service is having a substantial impact on the local tourism economy. The ferry routes are a vital link for tourists visiting key attractions in the community, region and province. Local businesses, including accommodations, food establishments, retail outlets and tourist attractions, are likely to experience a decline in visitors, leading to potential economic loss during this period.

Mayor Keith Pearson continued to emphasize the broader implications saying "the ferry service is an essential component of our tourism infrastructure. Its suspension is not just an inconvenience but a significant challenge for the many businesses that depend on tourist traffic. We are hearing from several people that they have now lost confidence in the ferry service this season and will be booking elsewhere for travel this Summer."

About Marine Atlantic

Marine Atlantic Inc. is an independent Canadian Federal Crown Corporation which is mandated to operate ferry services between the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

About Placentia, Newfoundland and Labrador

Placentia, NL is a vibrant community of approximately 3,500 residents located one hour from the capital city of St. John's. Placentia is the gateway to the Atlantic Provinces, rich in heritage and culture while boasting an abundance of economic development opportunities.

Media Contact:

Jennifer Bennett
Manager of Tourism, Marketing and Communications
Town of Placentia
709-227-2151 ext. 224
jbennett@placentia.ca

