



## **Community Liaison Committee: Spaceport Nova Scotia**

Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

4-5:30pm

### **Members in Attendance**

Ginny Boudreau, GCIFA  
Sheri Parker, Community Resident  
Ray White, Community Resident  
Gordon MacDonald, MODG  
Fin Armsworthy, Councillor, District 8  
Frank Sander, Community Resident  
Janet Peitzsche, Deputy Warden  
Judy Cook, Community Resident  
Steve Matier, Maritime Launch  
Harvey Doane, Maritime Launch  
Yaroslav Pustoyvi, Maritime Launch  
Sarah McLean, Maritime Launch

### **Regrets:**

Della Horne, Community Resident  
Mike McLean, Community Resident  
Harold Roberts, Community Resident

### **Meeting Minutes:**

#### **1. Call to Order and Welcome**

- Sarah McLean (Maritime Launch) called the meeting to order at 4:01, and confirmed adoption of last meeting's minutes
- New introductions
  - Yaroslav Pustoyvi introduced himself as Director of Safety for Maritime Launch and provided an overview of his professional credentials to members of the CLC

#### **2. Maritime Launch Project Update**

- Stephen Matier opened the update with a general question to committee members "Why is Maritime Launch developing a Spaceport near Canso to launch satellites into low earth orbit?"
  - Members of the committee shared their ideas including the global competitiveness of the location (sun-synchronous orbit), the growth of the commercial space sector, and the ability to serve clients in a number of sectors in environmental protection, telecommunications, tourism, and science.
- Stephen Matier provided a high-level update on the compliance work that is underway in partnership with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, as it relates to the EA Approval granted in 2019.
- Stephen Matier provided an overview of the two events Maritime Launch is hosting in Guysborough and Canso, including an industry presentation and Open House on October 6th. In his overview, Stephen shared the names and credentials of the subject matter experts who were joining the events, including experts in emergency management planning, wildlife management, air monitoring, sound modeling, construction and design. Organizations included Nova Construction, Lindsay Construction, Blue Ridge Consulting, Stantec, Lloyd's Register, StFX and DesignPoint.
- In addition, Stephen shared that Maritime Launch was looking to engage members of the community on the design and experience offered at the Launch Control Centre.
- Stephen shared that Maritime Launch has been working with Transport Canada on the regulatory framework required for orbital launches, and they have been a very helpful, collaborative partner.
- Stephen reiterated that once the required compliance activities are complete and approved by Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, they will be permitted to start construction.
  - Roundtable Questions

- One member stated that there is an urgency to meet with the Navigable Waters team within Transport Canada, as well as Small Craft Harbours at DFO
- One member asked if Maritime Launch could share an anticipated date for when construction can begin and when jobs will be available within the community. It was stated that community members do not believe the project is happening as there is currently no activity on the site. Maritime Launch reiterated that they are working through the EA conditions with the Department of Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change and hope to begin construction in late 2021, early 2022
- A member asked if the provincial MLAs and federal MPs are engaged on the project, and Maritime Launch responded by referencing a change in both the provincial government and deputy level has occurred, and the company looks forward to an opportunity to provide an updated brief on the progress.

### 3. Update on Environmental Assessment Compliance Work Underway

- Harvey Doane, Vice President, Strategic Development, reviewed the conditions that Maritime Launch is currently working on in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia, including the Wildlife Management Plan, the Dangerous Goods Act, the Complaints Resolution Log, etc. In his update, Harvey walked through the conditions as outlined in the 2019 EA Approval.
- In addition, Harvey provided an update on Maritime Launch's vision for the Launch Control Centre. With the input of the community, the LCC will be open to the tourists, students and members of the local community
- Maritime Launch also shared the work they have underway with Supernova at Dalhousie and a potential partnership for educational programming at the LCC.
  - Roundtable:
    - One community member asked how many people will actually move to Canso with the development of the Spaceport. Maritime Launch reiterated that the Spaceport will have a number of jobs during operations available across various trades, administration, IT, and security, and job opportunities will ramp up at each launch. It is hoped that local community residents will apply for those jobs, or others will move to the community for employment
    - One community member advised Maritime Launch to use clear communications regarding the EA process, so community can better understand the process.
    - One member suggested that Maritime Launch meet with the new MLA, Minister Greg Morrow as soon as possible. It was confirmed that Maritime Launch has been in touch to schedule a meeting.

### 4. Communications and Engagement Update

- Sarah McLean shared that as of September 13<sup>th</sup>, she became an official member of the Maritime Launch team as Vice President, Communications and Corporate Affairs
- Sarah reiterated the work she has done in supporting Maritime Launch since 2017
- Sarah then reviewed the results of recent public polling that was done in the local communities, across the province and Atlantic region. Key insights shared include:
  - Maritime Launch engaged Narrative Research Associates to conduct public opinion polling to determine the level of awareness and support / opposition for the Spaceport project
  - Public Opinion polling helps identify opportunities for improved communication, as it helps understand where people have questions or lack of confidence
  - Narrative Research is a national polling firm and has been conducting polls of this scale and scope for many years. Participants have the opportunity to rate their response on a scale of support / opposition including "Completely disagree to completely agree"
  - Key findings include:
    - Narrative Research leverages Statistics Canada data to ensure an accurate representation of the demographics of the community

#### Local Community Polling

- The primary target audience included residents living in specific communities of Nova Scotia, namely Port Hawkesbury, Guysborough County (including Canso) and Antigonish County.

- Both landline and cellphone contact records were utilized to ensure all population segments were included in the specified communities.
- It was found that there is **widespread awareness** of the spaceport launch facility project near Canso.
- **Three-quarters of residents have seen or heard something in the past few months about the spaceport or launch facility project near Canso.**
- When asked what specifically residents had seen or heard, six in ten of those aware cited hearing or seeing something about building a spaceport launch facility. One in eight cited coverage in news media, while almost one in ten mentioned hearing about opposition to the project.
- When stated that the spaceport facility will be required to comply with environmental and safety regulations and that necessary steps must be taken to mitigate associated risks, **over eight in ten residents confirmed their support for the project. Those opposed are less than one in ten residents.**
- Among those who support the development of a spaceport launch facility near Canso, most do so because the project **will create jobs.**
- Further reasons cited for support by a notable minority include **its contribution to the local economy**, followed distantly by its contribution to the **development of community** or because **it is good for tourism and marketing the province. One in ten support the project as it is a new industry for Canada.**
- Less than one in ten residents voiced opposition for the development. **Primary reasons for opposition included environmental concerns, the risk of spill of hazardous material or because it can damage surrounding ecosystems.**
- Residents were asked to rate their level of agreement on a one to ten scale on a series of statements, where one is completely disagreed and ten is completely agree.
  - Eight in ten offered high agreement that the facility would be an **important economic enabler for Canso and surrounding areas**. A similar proportion believe that having a **Canadian owned and operated domestic spaceport launch capability is beneficial for Canada.**
  - Three in four agreed that **the facility will support needed infrastructure development in the region**, while one in ten disagreed (offered a rating of 1-4 out of ten). One-half agreed that **the economic benefits of the operations outweigh the potential risk to the region**, while 17% disagreed with this statement.
- One-half of residents have taken at **least one action to stay engaged in their community** in the past year, while a similar portion has taken no action.
- Specifically, **one-half of residents has either contacted an elected official or signed a petition.** Three in ten residents have written to a newspaper or shared a comment on social media within the past year. Two in ten have attended a town hall or meeting in their community.

#### Regional Omnibus Polling

- Narrative Research also polled Nova Scotians and Atlantic Canadians using their Omnibus Polling Service
  - There is a **high level of awareness in the province of Nova Scotia** regarding the development of a spaceport, **awareness declines moderately in the provinces of NB, PEI and NL. NL is the province with the least awareness of the project.**
  - When told of the regulatory requirements of operating a spaceport in Nova Scotia, **86% of Atlantic Canadians completely support** the development of a spaceport in Nova Scotia and **one in ten opposed.**
  - **Economic benefit to the local community** and provincial economy were the top reason for support, and **“a new industry to Canada located in Atlantic Canada”** was another top reason for support.
  - One in ten opposed the project for **concerns related to safety and the environment.**
- Roundtable:
  - One Member requested the details of the demographics of those polled in the local community. Maritime Launch confirmed that the demographics are from Statistics Canada,

and of those polled, 48% were male, while 52% were female. In addition, 29% of the population polled is 65+, the largest segment of the population, followed by 21% who are 55-64 and 17% who are between the ages of 45-54. Only 33% of the population in the local community are between the ages of 18-44.

- Members discussed how active the community has been on this project, as a high number of members are engaging in Open Houses, and community information sessions, or writing their MPs / MLAs.
- It was agreed that communications activities must be focused on the topics of safety and environment, to help support understanding within the community. Maritime Launch agreed with this need and stated that the Open House on October 6<sup>th</sup> will include wildlife biologists, emergency planning experts, and an expert who has handled fuel for launch vehicles for over 30 years, to answer questions.
- One member asked about the working relationship with the MODG, and Maritime Launch confirmed that it has been great to work with MODG, as they are focused on ensuring the project provides benefit to the local communities.
- One member asked if MODG was supporting the work of the Spaceport and reflecting questions and concerns from community. It was stated that the MODG has been working diligently with Maritime Launch, and the staff at the MODG are the best in their field – highly experienced and exceptional to work with.
- One member expressed their concern that despite the offer made, members opposed to the project will not join the CLC.
- One member asked if local fishers were supportive of the project, or if they were being consulted with. It was confirmed that yes, engagement has taken place and there are questions among the fishing community and will be addressed in ongoing consultation with the GCIFA.

*At 6:00 pm the meeting was adjourned.*