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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TRANSPORTATION STUDY SUPPORTS RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF LINKAGES BETWEEN NORTHERN REGIONS FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT

**Happy Valley-Goose Bay** – Labrador North Chamber of Commerce (LNCC) and Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce (BRCC) today announced the release of the **North East Trade Corridors Transportation Study**. This project, led by the two Chambers over the past 14 months, was to evaluate transportation linkages (air and marine) primarily between Labrador, Nunavut and Greenland.

The study was developed as a pre-feasibility for business and governments interested in exploring expanded transportation networks in Canada's eastern arctic and north. It provides considerable support for the re-establishment of air linkages between Goose Bay and Iqaluit, as well as between Iqaluit and Greenland. In addition, the report suggests merit in expanding marine services from Labrador's north coast to Iqaluit.

"With the significant number of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians living and working in Nunavut, we as Chambers of Commerce have long suspected that a transportation corridor linking Goose Bay and Iqaluit was viable. Many trade opportunities with points in Atlantic Canada would be supported by air and marine transportation," said Dave Hunt, Labrador North Chamber of Commerce President. "This study offers substantial information to support those beliefs."

"Nunavut has long standing linkages to Greenland. We feel that tourism and trade will grow considerably by reinstating direct scheduled air service. This study provides good information for any airline considering the feasibility of re-establishing this route," said Bob Long Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce President.

Another major aspect of the study was an evaluation of Goose Bay as an alternate distribution centre for the Food Mail program into Nunavut and Nunavik. The research in this report suggests that Goose Bay could be a cost effective alternative to other jurisdictions. Food Mail, an Indian and Northern Affairs Canada program administered by Canada Post is aimed at increasing access to and reducing costs of nutritious foods to many of Canada's most isolated northern communities. The program provides approximately \$40M in funding annually for shipping of product.

“While it requires more analysis, it’s important to note that this study indicates that Goose Bay may be a viable distribution point for Food Mail into Nunavut and Nunavik,” said Brian Fowlow, Executive Director of the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce. “This would lend significant support to the viability of an air linkage between the regions, and support additional trade and cultural exchanges.”

“Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has studied alternative distribution points for the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut and changes have been made. We feel that alternative distribution routes for the Baffin Region should also be considered. Our consumers want the highest quality food possible at reasonable prices,” said Hal Timar, Executive Director of the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“Through projects such as this study and our NorthLink trade development initiative, we will continue to work with our many partners in the private and public sectors to foster trade and transportation linkages throughout our regions and in the circumpolar north as a whole,” said Mr. Fowlow.

Copies of the study can be obtained by contacting either the LNCC or BRCC.

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