



For Immediate Release  
May 19, 2010

## **Liberals push for Sydney Harbour project**

OTTAWA – As the Port of Sydney in Nova Scotia celebrates Ports Day tomorrow, Liberal MPs are calling on the Harper Conservatives to make an investment in the dredging of Sydney Harbour.

“Sydney has the potential to become a major international trading port, but it first requires a one-time dredge to accommodate larger vessels,” said Liberal Transportation Critic Joe Volpe. “This is clearly a transportation priority for the community and it is time for the federal government to support the economic aspirations of the region.”

The proposal put forward by the Sydney Marine Group to develop the Port was established in the 2008 Port of Sydney Master Plan. The document clearly identified dredging of the access channel as the key enabling event for the Port’s future. The plan received a unanimous non-partisan endorsement from all elected area representatives from all levels of government. Less than two weeks remain before a decision on funding must be made.

Sydney--Victoria MP Mark Eyking said federal government approval is the only way to move such a large-scale project forward.

“A project of this scale needs a lead nod from the federal government,” said Mr. Eyking. “If you look at the Tar Ponds clean-up, the majority of funding came from the federal government. A financial commitment from the Harper government is required to move this essential project forward.”

Cape Breton--Canso MP Rodger Cuzner sees the project as vital to the national and regional interest.

“Cape Breton is an historic trading centre,” said Mr. Cuzner. “Sydney Harbour is not only a regional development driver but it is also in the national interest to continue to foster international and regional trade. Dredging of the harbour is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help transform our economy.”

The Sydney Harbour dredging is a private and public sector-driven, non-partisan effort. It has the support of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia Power, the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce and the International Long Shoremen’s Union Local.

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