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September 1, 2017

Cost estimate coming for rail infrastructure upgrades

SYDNEY, NS – Work has commenced on a detailed analysis of the condition of the CBNS rail line and cost estimate to bring the line to a standard that can accommodate double-stacked container traffic.

The evaluation will focus on the rail line owned by Genesee & Wyoming between CN's mainline at Truro and the Port of Sydney.

The analysis and estimate work will be completed by Hatch (www.hatch.com), a firm with extensive experience in the rail sector. The analysts will perform their field work over the coming weeks.

"The CBNS rail line is an essential component of port development, particularly for a container port and logistics park," said Port of Sydney CEO Marlene Usher. "Many other sectors, such as manufacturing, minerals and agricultural products, also benefit from rail transport access. We are pleased to work with Genesee & Wyoming, Sydney Harbour Investment Partners, our First Nations partners and Hatch in the completion of this analysis."

A 2015 provincial study by CANARAIL estimated a figure of \$6.34 million annually in capital and operating expenses (approximately \$31.4 million over a period of five years) to make the rail line a Class 3 line again. The Hatch analysis will include an independent assessment of upgrade and repair costs and evaluations of the bridges. The final report will provide a complete picture of the investment needed to effectively move container traffic on the CBNS rail line between Sydney and Truro.

Cape Breton Regional Municipality and First Nations partners support the approval of funding from the Port of Sydney for this project. This first phase of the project is budgeted at \$80,300 plus expenses.

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